



OFFICERS CALL

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



★★★★★ Five Star Chapter ★★★★★

Vol XVI No.III

March 2016

President's Comments:

Greetings to all our St. Petersburg area MOAA members. I want to thank all our members as you "Never Stop Serving". This saying I hope will be a rallying cry as we make every effort to grow our organization. Yes, there is strength in numbers and you can bet that if the MOAA membership declines, it will fuel the legislative attacks on the military services and their personnel. I encourage each of you to visit the moaa.org website and the Legislative Action Center. On this site you will see at least 32 key bills in Congress. Gaining sponsorship for these Bills is only possible through a robust and active MOAA membership. The culture on The Hill has become less friendly to the military as fewer of our elected officials have ever served.



So if we are going to work hard to sustain and grow MOAA we must be nourished, but alas everything is going up except our pay. If we want to keep the level of service and the quality of food, the price has been raised by The Pasadena Yacht and Country Club. We are looking at options and I will appreciate any suggestions.

St Petersburg Area Chapter Designated Scholarship Fund--UPDATE

As most of you know, our chapter has created two Designated Scholarship Funds with MOAA, each in the amount of \$25,000. Each of these funds provides a \$500 grant and an interest-free loan of \$5,000 to a military dependent scholar selected by the MOAA Scholarship Fund office. These funds are fully funded and will provide these benefits in perpetuity.

Funding for these designated scholarships is spread out over 5 years, with a required contribution of \$5000 each year. Thanks to your generous contributions, we fully funded the first two scholarships in 4 years instead of the 5 years we were allotted.

With the full funding of the second scholarship, your chapter elected to begin funding a third designated scholarship. Thanks, again, to the very generous support of all of you, we are well ahead of schedule on fully funding the St Petersburg Area Chapter Designated Scholarship Fund III. In fact, we have a little less than \$5,000 remaining on our commitment of \$25,000.

Many of you have met some of the recipients of our scholarships at our chapter luncheons over the years, and I am sure you will agree that each was a very impressive young adult, and will be an asset to this great Country of ours as he or she completes his or her education and moves out into the real world.

Thank you for supporting this very worthwhile effort!

INSIDE

Calendar and Contact List	Page 2
Luncheon Minutes	Page 3
Executive Committee Minutes	Page 3
Legislative Update	Page 5
Luncheon Photos	Page 6-7
Donations	Page 8
Financial Statement	Page 9
Birthdays	Page 9
TAPS	Page 9
New Members	Page 9
Sick List	Page 9
Upcoming Luncheon Information	Page 12

Free Lunch Winners

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

New Members:

- No one for this month

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 Mrs Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC 360-2936
Secretary- Mrs Ginni Eichholz, AuxMbr Spouse 347-9538
Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret) 894-3761

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 CAPT Peter Gunderson, USNR (Ret) 404-304-3313
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Immediate Past President

Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret) 522-6237

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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 3rd Friday — mixer
 11:00 - 11:45; luncheon program 11:45 - 13:15;
 Pasadena Yacht Club, Gulfport

CALENDAR

Mar 18th Frank Correa, Armed Forces Hist. Museum

Apr 15th

May 20th

Jun 17th

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

Call: COL Roger Popham 498-6860

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.

Mar 8th Monday

Apr 4th Monday

May 2nd Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

Luncheons:

- Next luncheon will be
 Tuesday Mar 8th
 1130 hours
 The Club at Treasure Island
 400 Treasure Island Causeway
 Treasure Island

Luncheon Reservations:

Rose Munchbach, 727-397-4146

Membership Info:

- Fran Chacey 251-9653

Bridge: (3rd Thursday of the month) **10:30 AM**

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership	- 200
Regular Members	- 132
Auxiliary Members	- 44
AuxMbr-Spouse	- 24
Inactive Members	- 0

Military Services:

Army - 57	USMC - 7
USAF - 34	USCG - 8
Navy - 26	NOAA - 0

2/21/2016



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



Minutes

Reported by **Ginni Eichholz**
Monthly Luncheon; 19 February 2016

Attended – 59: (60) reservations), 0 Member Guest, 1 Chapter Guests, 1 Walk in, 0 Cancel, 2 No Shows

Luncheon called to order by President Roger Popham

Invocation by Glen Crabb followed by Pledge of Allegiance led by President Roger Popham.

Glen reminded us that it was the 70th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima, we observed a moment of silence in memory of the fallen at this horrific fight.



Guest and visitors were Tom Cuba compliments of Violet Smith, Bill and Penny Eisenhart (past members) Ceil Nagel guest of Sherry Freese , John and Paula Marcy, Laura Spears, David Milchan, brother of Janet Graham, Brad Landers, son of Joan Landers, BG Mark Bircher, USMC (Ret), LT Larry Brant, Chaplain, USCG, guest of the Beaches, Sandy Mermelstein ,senior educator of FL Holocaust Museum, Guest speaker Mary Wygodski, her daughter Christine, and her neighbor Ms Marty Brown.

MOAA convention is in Lakeland 13-15 May 2016, you can register to attend on-line.

Casino Royale will be held at The Armed Forces Museum in Largo, FL on Sat. March 19 . Our own Heaven on Earth for Vets will be one of two groups to benefit from this fun filled evening. If you are unable to attend, donations are welcome.

Door prize winner Glen Crabb 50/50, winners Bill Eichholz and David Milchan.

After a delicious lunch we had the privilege of listening to Mrs. Mary Wygodski tell of her experience as a young Jewish Girl who survived the Ghetto and three concentration camps. Mrs. Wygodski was the only one of her family to survive the camps. Her parents, two sisters and a brother to perished. She stated that it initially was still too painful to tell others her story but she felt she must do so that the horrible, inhuman acts of the Nazi's will never be forgotten. We were so very touched by her sharp memory wit and courage. Her book, Mary's Story is available at The FL Holocaust Museum.

Executive Committee Meeting 1 February 2016

Meeting convened on 1 FEB 2016.

Called to order by President Roger Popham.

Invocation led by Glen Crabb.

Pledge of allegiance led by Roger Popham.

Violet Smith moved to accept the JAN 2016 EB meeting notes as published. Motion seconded by Larry Fernald and minutes approved as published.

First Vice President Bill Eichholz stated the holocaust museum would provide guest speaker for FEB luncheon.

Second Vice President, Pauline Edwards has posted press releases and she received four phone calls from possible new members.

Ed Lillich stated we needed to be more involved in JROTC programs. He suggested several ways to do this and also increase memberships.

After review of Treasurer report Ed also moved to accept it subject to future audit. This was seconded by Glen Crabb and unanimously approved by EB. Further, Bill Lofgren agreed to conduct said audit.

Roger Popham gave the EB an overview of the results from the 8-9 JAN MOAA Florida council meeting in Orlando. One of our chapter shortfalls was lack of a legislative liaison representative. Bill Eichholz agreed to undertake this task.

Bill Lofgren said we need to approve the MOAA policy book annually. Glen moved to approve this recommendation and was seconded by Larry. EB approved the motion.

Heaven on Earth for Veterans (HOEV) will participate in a Casino Royale at the Armed Forces History Museum on 19 MAR. HOEV will be painting one of their homes on 20 FEB and they welcome any help in painting.

Next MOAA luncheon for 19 FEB will be held at the Pasadena Yacht Club.

Moving to Florida

A Florida senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he pushed it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

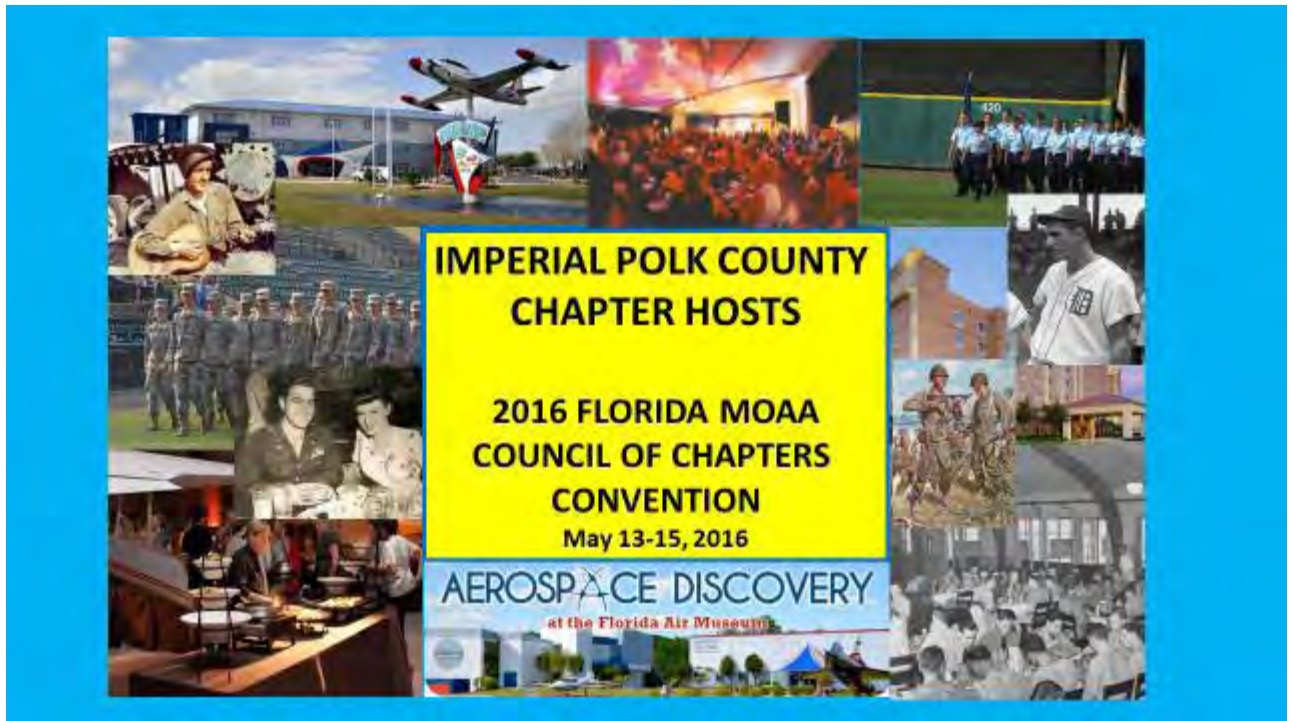
“Amazing,” he thought as he flew down I-275, pushing the pedal even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a Florida State Trooper, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, “What am I doing? I’m too old for this!” and pulled over to await the trooper’s arrival.

Pulling in behind him, the trooper got out of his vehicle and walked up to the Corvette. He looked at his watch, then said, “Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a new reason for speeding – a reason I’ve never before heard – I’ll let you go..”

The old gentleman paused then said, “Three years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back.”

“Have a good day, Sir,” replied the trooper



Convention Agenda

The convention will begin Friday with a visit to historic Summerlin Military Academy founded in 1887 as the first public high school located in in Bartow, Florida, and attended by 500 high school cadets.

The venue will relocate to the Sun 'n Fun campus and the Central Florida Aerospace Academy. CFAA is a high school curriculum focused on aviation and boasts a 100% graduation rate. Approximately 450 students attend CFAA.

The day will end with a reception featuring exciting entertainment.

Saturday will begin with breakfast meeting in a chow hall utilized by aviation cadets during WW II. There will be a presentation on the history of Lodwick Field and the Detroit Tigers 100 year presence in Lakeland.

An educational fair will feature career academy achievements by middle and high school students. A number of other organizations and entities will be present demonstrating their support of the military and veterans.

The Saturday evening event will be a 1940's, 1950's 1960's Hangar Canteen extravaganza. Dig out your old uniform(s)-Class A, B, fatigues, flight suit, party suit, whatever. Enjoy the sounds of a popular Swing Band playing the period music. You will not forget this evening.

Sunday morning Memorial Service will take place in lovely Veterans Memorial Park.

Rules of the Conference:

- No civilian suits, coats or ties.
- Transportation will be available to all venues.
- Hampton Inn will be the primary hotel for billeting.
 - ^ Room block for May 13-15, 2016. To make reservations call hotel directly or follow the link:
 - ^ http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/L/LALPPHX-MOA-201610512/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG
 - ^ Rooms will be held until the cutoff date April 17th, 2016
 - ^ Mary Babylon, Sales Manager, Hampton Inn & Suites, Lakeland South-Polk Parkway 3630 Lakeside Village Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33803 Tel 863-603-7600 Fax 863-603-7601



MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

MOAA's Top 10 Legislative Goals for 2016



1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains top-quality care

Military health care recommendations from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission have the potential to stimulate major changes to military health care programs. MOAA will strive to ensure the problems with TRICARE are addressed in a systemic manner, programs that are working well are sustained, and problem areas are addressed to improve care, coverage, and readiness.

2. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases

A unique military health care plan is an essential offset to the arduous conditions in a military career. Any fee-adjustment formula must recognize that military beneficiaries prepay very large premiums for their lifetime coverage through decades of service and sacrifice, and the country must have a higher obligation to them than what corporate employers demonstrate for their employees. To that end, a percentage increase in military beneficiaries' health care fees in any year should not exceed the percentage increase in their military compensation.

MOAA adamantly will resist proposals to make military health care programs more like those offered by civilian employers and that add thousands of dollars a year to military beneficiaries' costs.

3. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector

Congress worked to improve military pay after previous pay-raise caps caused retention problems. For 2016, the military pay raise was capped at 1.3 percent, 1 percentage point below the 2.3-percent private-sector pay growth, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index (ECI). This is the third consecutive year of capping military raises below the statutory ECI standard, and the president's budget envisioned additional caps for six consecutive years. Past history with military pay-raise caps shows they continue until they hurt retention and readiness. MOAA strongly objects to further planned pay caps. This unwise process generated retention crises in the 1970s and '90s. Sustaining pay comparability is essential to long-term retention and readiness.

4. Block erosion of compensation and commissary benefits

Protect against privatization, consolidation, reduction in services, or elimination efforts in commissary and exchange programs. Sustain funding support, and guard against diminution of this substantial benefit for active duty, reserve, and retired servicemembers and their families and survivors.

5. Protect military retirement/COLAs

Proposals to cap annual COLAs below inflation or to redefine and depress the Consumer Price Index for the purpose of geometrically depressing successive annual adjustments would break long-standing statutory commitments to them.

Accordingly, MOAA is gratified the FY 2016 NDAA repealed the final section of a COLA-reducing law that was enacted two years ago for future military retirees. Under the repealed law, future military retirees would have had their annual COLAs capped 1 percentage point below inflation until age 62.

MOAA was instrumental in repealing the COLA cap, with members sending more than 300,000 messages to Capitol Hill in just a few months.

MOAA will continue to exert every effort to preserve the congressional intent, as expressed in the House Armed Services Committee Print of Title 37, U.S. Code, "to provide every military retired member the same purchasing power of the retired pay to which he was entitled at the time of retirement [and ensure it is] not, at any time in the future ... eroded by subsequent increases in consumer prices."

6. Sustain wounded-warrior programs and expand caregiver support

A recent RAND Corp. study of caregivers found more than 1 out of 6 of our nation's 5.5 million caregivers are caring for post-9/11 veterans. Nearly 40 percent of these caregivers are under the age of 30 and will remain in the role of caregiver for decades to come. We must do more to support these caregivers who are providing an estimated \$3 billion a year in services to our wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers and veterans. Improvements to respite care, employment accommodations, and health care are a priority. Full-time caregivers of severely disabled veterans from conflicts prior to Sept. 11, 2001, must be included in Caregiver Act services, support, and respite care.

More must be done to ensure medical and benefit systems are providing continuity of care and coverage for wounded warriors of all services and components, including reasonable assistance, training, mental health and family-marital counseling, and compensation for their dependent and nondependent caregivers.

DoD and the VA have made progress toward increasing the number of behavioral health care providers, but timely access to qualified, appropriate mental health intervention and treatment remains difficult in many DoD and VA health care facilities. The shortage of mental health care providers results in increased referrals to civilian providers, many of whom have little knowledge or understanding of military culture and the unique needs of military families. Specialized training and military cultural-awareness programs should be expanded for community providers to improve efficiency when working with servicemembers and veterans and their families.

The health and well-being of the all-volunteer force has never been more critical. DoD and the VA must have viable and ef-

See Legislature Page 8





Stan Beach with guest Chaplain
Larry Brant, USCG



Guest speaker Mary Wygodski



Mary Wygodski receiving chapter
gift from President Roger Popham



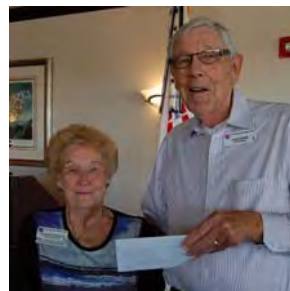
Guest Marty Brown



Guest Christine Wygodski,
daughter of guest speaker
Mary Wygodski



Guest Sandy Mermelstein,
Florida Holocaust Museum



Pauline Edwards with Door
Prize winner Glen Crabb



Former members Penny and
Bill Eisenhart



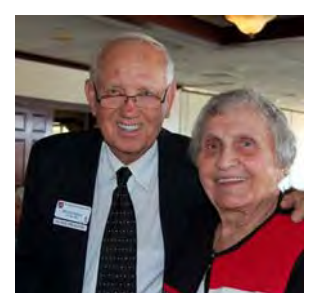
Fran Chancey



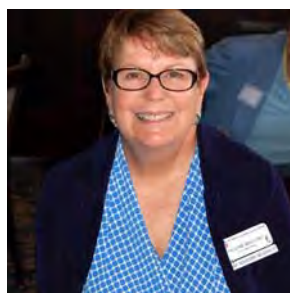
Sherry Freese and guest
Ceil Nagel



50/50 winner guest David
Milchan and Rose Munchbach



50/50 winner Bill Eichholz and
Rose Munchbach



Pauline Mallory



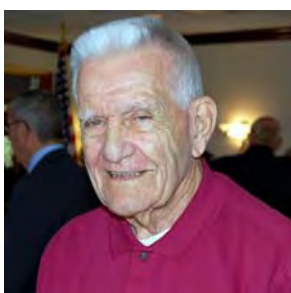
Buck Williams



Bill Terwilliger



Lauri Spears



Richard Arcand (Corrected)



Charles Lake and Sherry
Freese (Corrected)



John and Martha Schoeppner



Paula and John Marcy

Photos by Bill Lofgren





Carol and David Sjolund



Son Brad and member Joan Landers



Sheila Mutascio and Carol Barkalow



Jon Barber



Peter Gunderson



Roger and Jeanie Popham



Jo Ann Burch and Cindy Vitters



Ginni and Bill Eichholz



John and Janet Grahm



Jim and Jo Ward



Glen and Katie Crabb



Peter Hermann



Virginia Balke



Chaplain George Brown



Paul and Betty Finley



Ed and Chris Lillich



Robert and Jean Reed



Katie Crabb and George Stenehjem



Visitor BG Mark Bircher, USMC (Ret) and Tom Cuba

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: papabill77@outlook.com

Legislature from Page 5

fective systems of care and support that address all warrior physical, mental, and emotional issues, including managing pain, substance use, and complex trauma conditions. Senior commanders must continue to strengthen efforts to establish a command climate that eliminates stigma associated with seeking mental health care. Establishing a culture that encourages individuals to seek help as an act of strength rather than as a sign of weakness is central to transforming the willingness of servicemembers to seek treatment.

7. End disabled/survivor financial penalties

MOAA supports a plan to phase out the disability offset to retired pay for all disabled retired servicemembers, with initial priority for those who were prevented from serving 20 years solely because they became severely disabled in service. MOAA will work with Congress, DoD, and the administration to advance this proposal as a further important step toward ending the offset for all disabled retirees.

In addition, MOAA will continue to fight for full repeal of the deduction of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for survivors of servicemembers who died of service-connected causes.

MOAA strongly believes when military service causes a servicemember's death, DIC should be paid in addition to SBP rather than being subtracted from it. To the extent funding cannot be obtained for immediate, full repeal, MOAA will seek interim steps to extend and substantially upgrade compensation for these most deserving survivors by supporting legislation to extend the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) beyond the current statutory expiration date of Oct. 1, 2017. Congress enacted SSIA as an interim means of easing financial penalties for survivors affected by the deduction of DIC from SBP. Since October 2008, qualifying surviving spouses have received gradually increasing monthly payments. The FY 2017 monthly allowance will be \$310. It will be essential to include an extension provision in the FY 2017 defense bill to keep these survivors from experiencing a significant income loss.

8. Fix Guard/Reserve retirement

Guard and Reserve families cannot be indefinitely burdened with irreconcilable tradeoffs between civilian employment, personal retirement planning, and family obligations. Operational Reserve policy requires reservists to serve one of every five years on active duty, though many already have served multiple combat tours equal to active force deployment cycles. Regardless of reemployment protections, periodic long-term absences from the civilian workplace can only limit these servicemembers' upward mobility and employability, as well as personal financial security. The new hybrid retirement plan (for service entrants on or after Jan. 1, 2018), composed of reduced retired pay and a matched 401(k)-style system, will require robust financial education of all servicemembers, including guardmembers and reservists, to protect their retirement interests.

See Legislature Page 11

2016 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

Gold- \$100 and up; Silver- \$50 to \$99; Bronze-Up to \$49

••GOLD –

Bartlett, Bill CAPT
Carr, Paulette Mrs.
Carr, Terry LTC
Eichholz, Bill LTC
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lee, Bill LCDR
Lofgren, Bill Col
Milford, John Lt Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Patton, Kathi Mrs.
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Talbitzer, John LT
Vitters, Cindy LTC

••SILVER –

Hamilton, Evey Mrs.
Barkalow, Carol LTC
Butler, Jerry COL
Christie, Robert LtCol
Finley, Paul LCDR

Mutascio, Sheila Ms.
Newton, Dick Col
Popham, Jeanie Mrs.
Popham, Roger COL
Sims, Bob Maj

••BRONZE –

Bax, Giles COL
Bolin, Bill CDR
Crabb, Glen CDR
D'Louhy, Jacque Mrs.
Edwards, Richard CAPT
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Gunderson, Kathy Mrs.
Hetherington, Chuck Col
Quattromani, Tony LTC
Terry, Maxine Mrs.
Tondreau, Tunny CWO4
Vecchio, Joe MAJ
Walters, Bobbie Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:
\$2,318 as of 2/21/2016

2016 Help Our Troops 2016 Heaven on Earth Donors

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

••GOLD –

Burrell, Basil CWO4
Carr, Paulette Mrs.
Carr, Terry LTC
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Finley, Paul LCDR
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Hetherington, Chuck Col
Holmes, Lee LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Kottich, Chuck COL
Lee, Bill LCDR
Milford, John Lt Col
Misuraca, A. J. 1st Lt
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Patton, Kathi Mrs.
Popham, Jeanie Mrs.

Popham, Roger COL
Poteat, Gen Mrs.
Quattromani, Tony LTC
Sims, Bob Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Talbitzer, John LT
Vitters, Cindy LTC

••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL
Butler, Jerry COL
Hansen, Gidge CPT
Terry, Maxine Mrs.
Tondreau, Tunny CWO4
Walters, Bobbie Mrs.

••BRONZE –

D'Louhy, Jacque Mrs.
Edwards, Richard CAPT
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Vecchio, Joe MAJ

Member donations ONLY:
\$ 1,640 as of 2/21/2016

Help Our Troops (HOT)

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





TAPS

Thankfully, no one.

Sick List

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

- ◆ Lt Col John Milford, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG (Ret)
- ◆ Mrs. Bobbie Walters, AuxMbr-A



Welcome Our New Members!

Sadly, none!

Every member get a new member
and get a free lunch!

March Birthdays (66 to 91 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
22	Bartlett	William	CAPT	USNR (Ret)
10	Carr	Paulette	Mrs	AuxMbr-Spouse
27	Choronenko	Iwan	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
14	Crabb	Katie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse
5	Eichholz	William	LTC	USA (Ret)
21	Fink	Marion	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
30	Foutz	Delores	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
2	Graham	John	CW2	USCG (Ret)
22	Imboden	John	2nd Lt	USAAF (Fmr)
16	Isley	Anne	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
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	USMCR (Ret)	
2	Summers	Robert Col	USAF (Ret)	
29	Vitters	Cynthia	LTC	USA (Ret)

Who says that husbands aren't helpful!

On a bitterly cold winters morning a husband and wife in Edmonton were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches

Financial Report Summary for the Month of January

HOT Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 6,180.32
.... Donations	\$ 0.00
.... 50/50	\$ 00.00
.... Expenses	\$ 0.00
.... HOT Balance, End of Month	\$ 6,180.32

Scholarship Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 5,051.00
.... Memorials	\$ 50.00
.... Donations	\$ 206.00
.... Expended	\$ 5,000.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 307.00

Operating Account

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 3,349.18
.... Luncheon Income	\$ 1,540.00
.... Dues	\$ 00.00
.... Misc Income	\$ 0.00
.... Interest Earned	\$ 0.00
.... Luncheon Expense	\$ (1,448.40)
.... Supplies	\$ (545.26)
.... Post Office	\$ (19.60)
.... Miscellaneous Expense	\$ (50.00)
.... Other Organizations	\$ (162.00)
.... Memorial to SF	\$ (50.00)
.... Printing/mailling	\$ (217.66)
.... Newsletter Costs	\$ (364.00)
.... VA/JROTC	\$ (150.00)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 1,882.26

of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snow ploughs can get through.."So the good wife went out and moved her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd numbered side of the street, so the snow ploughs can get through." The good wife went out and moved her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast,when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park...." Then the electricity went out.

The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said, "I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snow ploughs can get through?"

Then with the love and understanding in his voice that all married men exhibit, the husband eplied, "Why don't you just leave the car in the garage this time."

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Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



Chaplain's Message

FCOC Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill, USAF, (Ret) Religious Activities

God loves us unconditionally and so do dogs.

Dog Days

I have slowly realized that I have learned more theology from the dogs in my life than from all the religious professors, sermons and bible seminars I've encountered. I thank God for dogs. Therefore, I share this with all who have experienced the opportunity to love a dog and more importantly to have a dog love them. God loves us unconditionally and so do dogs.

When I was four years old my dream was to have a dog. That Christmas Santa Clause gave me a puppy. Sadly, we had to give this puppy away because he chewed everything he could find. It left an empty place in my heart that wasn't filled until four years later. It taught me we don't get everything we want.

Jeep came into my life when I was eight and became my constant companion. We slept together, went everywhere together, and played together. He walked me to the school bus in the morning and met me when the bus returned home in the afternoon. I still see Jeep waiting for me wagging his tail. He loved to wrestle and play with all my friends. One afternoon my father met me at the YMCA to tell me Jeep was dead. Our neighbor beat him to death with a rake, because Jeep was chasing his cat. Dad said we have choices: We could kill the cat, but that would make us as evil as the neighbor; we could make the neighbor pay us for damages, but no amount of money could replace Jeep; or we could forgive our neighbor and pray that he would find God's love so he wouldn't want to kill an animal again. Jeep's death taught me that we will have untimely losses, but God's love, guidance and comfort will always see us through.

The lessons my father taught me helped when I had to comfort my twin sons after

their dog died tragically in an accident. After our family shed their tears, we held a funeral for our pet in the back yard to help give us closure.

Today, one of my joys is Cami, a 13 year old Cock-a-poo (Cocker & Poodle mix) that I got from the SPCA. My wife of 46 years died suddenly of a brain aneurism, and for two years I suffered loneliness especially at night. Nothing was helping until my sons suggested I get a dog. Also, my best friend told me the dogs at the shelter needed to be adopted or they were euthanized. So, he, his dog and I went to the shelter. She was in the last cage I saw. When I picked her up in my arms she wrapped her paws around my neck. I took her outside to see my friend and his dog, because she had to get along with my friend's dog, too. They bonded instantly. When I went inside to ask about adopting her she followed me back into "prison" and wouldn't let me out of her sight. I adopted her on the spot and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. She would lick the tears from my face when I cried and stayed with me everywhere I went. As an adult, I had made the statement that no animal would ever sleep in my bed, but the

first night I brought her home she snuggled next to me to comfort me, and she still does.

Cami and I are growing old together, but she still teaches me about God's love. Theology confuses many people but the reality of a pet clarifies God's message to us. Pets teach children and adults alike about responsibility, abundant love, affection, aging, hope and the naturalness of death. The SPCA and many other groups are there to help us find a tremendous companion who can help us regardless of our age.

Legislature from Page 8

9. Improve spouse and family support

Preserve funding for family support; morale, welfare and recreation; exchange; commissary; and other critical support services and quality-of-life programs. Improve and enhance access to affordable, quality child care. MOAA recognizes the significance of continued crucial support of military family members bearing the brunt on the home front of over a decade at war. MOAA will work with Congress, DoD, and others in ensuring necessary family support and quality-of-life services across all components, installations, and communities. Military families with a special-needs member face additional stressors. More must be done to enhance support services and health care for these families.

10. Assure timely access to the VA, and eliminate the VA claims backlog

The VA must aggressively implement reforms to assure timely access to the quality care most enrolled veterans experience. Changes in leadership in some facilities, recruitment of separating DoD medical professionals, upgrades of clinical space, and an overhaul of the out-of-date scheduling system are needed. MOAA supports a comprehensive, strategic plan for VA health care delivery in the 21st century.

The VA must double down on efforts to improve mental health care delivery and address the number of veteran suicides. The VA and DoD need to strengthen their collaboration in delivering long-term medical and benefits counseling and caregiver support for catastrophically disabled veterans.

To sustain VA services to the nation's veterans, two-year funding across all VA accounts must be enacted. MOAA will continue to be watchful against any initiative that would force dual-eligible beneficiaries, solely as a cost-savings measure, to choose between the DoD and VA health systems.

If you have questions or concerns about MOAA's legislative goals please call the Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622 or email legis@moaa.org.

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St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

Monthly Luncheon

Friday
18 March 2016

Pasadena Yacht Club
6300 Pasadena Point Blvd. South,
Gulfport. FL

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

Guest Speakers:

Frank Correa
Armed Forces History Museum
GEN Leon E, Salomon, USA (Ret)

Frank Correa is the Historian of the Armed Forces History Museum in Largo, Florida. Originally from Torrington, Connecticut, he joined the United States Marine Corps and was assigned to the Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Pacific. Frank is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, he was awarded the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal. During his time at the Armed Forces History Museum he has given hundreds of tours. He is a recipient of the Gold Distinguished Citizen Medal of the Marine Corps League for his work with Wounded Warriors. He is the Past Commandant of the Marine Corps League Detachment #54, and is a member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, along with Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

General Leon E. Salomon was born in Chicago, Illinois on 27 April 1936. On completion of Infantry Officer Candidate School he was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1959. General Salomon has Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology from the University of Florida and a Master of Science degree in management logistics from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. His military education includes the Chemical Officer Advanced Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.



His career culminated in his last assignment as Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, from 11 February 1994 to 27 March 1996.

He now lives in Gulfport, FL. With his wife Shirley, two sons Greg and Jeff Salomon, daughter Kristen Salomon.

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, March 18th 2016

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COL Roger Popham 498-6860



March

- 1: Peace Corps established 1961
- 8: International Women's Day
- 12: Girl Scout Day
- 13: Daylight Savings Begins
- 17: St. Patrick's Day
- 19: HOEV Casino Royale **
- 20: First walk in space 1965
- 27: Easter Sunday
- 30: Doctor's Day

