

OFFICERS CALL

May 2017

President's Comments:

Thanks to everyone who attended the April luncheon.

For many, attendance was a challenge with the date following rapidly on the heels of Spring break, Easter weekend as well as the departure of snowbirds to their northern climes. Overall, we had a very good turnout, an enjoyable social hour and meal as well as a great presentation by former Mayor Rick Baker regarding St. Pete's efforts to gain a National/Major league level soccer team, the "Rowdies".



Interestingly, if the soccer franchise is obtained, the current stadium used by the Rowdies, Al Lang field will be expanded to seat up to 16,000 fans. Rick Baker stated that the footprint for the stadium and parking would meet the requirements of the master plan for the waterfront when he was Mayor. More importantly, all expenses required for construction of the new stadium and access would be borne solely by the investors, i.e., absolutely no costs would be paid by the city or county. Now that's a rare concept most of us would easily approve!

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In other news, we had a highly successful fund raising event for the OC Booster fund, Havana Nights, held on 22 April 2017. More details can be found on this subject in a separate article below. Hope to see all of you at the May luncheon where we hold the Memorial Day Observance in recognition of our fallen comrades. See you there.

Officer Call Booster Fund Raiser "Havana Nights"

On 22 APR 2017, your MOAA Chapter held a fund raiser specifically designed to provide funding for the publication costs of printing and mailing your monthly *Officers Call*. Production of the publication has increased the burden on our operational funding and we therefore needed an additional source of income to stay ahead of costs. The OC Booster Fund was approved by your Executive Board in March 2017. The Havana Nights dinner party was a venue to socialize, have great Cuban food, drink and raise money for your Chapter! Many thanks to all that paid the \$30.00 cost per ticket for attendance or made a donation to the OC through the Havana Nights event. Everyone pitched in helping to serve food, drinks as well as cleanup. A special hit at the party was an antiquated beach bar which Pete Gunderson created from material pallets with a plywood countertop which he created with his jig saw. If you ever need any carpentry work done, call "KP" (Pete Gunderson). For those of you who missed the party, the special meal consisted of salad, roasted Cuban pork, black beans, yellow rice, toasted Cuban bread and key lime pie for desert. Also, special Cuban drinks such as Sangria, Cuba Libres and Mojitos which were served by our very own bartender. The event netted \$1185.00 for our booster fund. Thanks for everyone's support in putting on this special event which so many enjoyed and participated.

Officers Call



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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DIRECTORS

President- LTC Bill Eichholz, USA (Rewt) 289-8054
 1st VP- CAPT Pete Gunderson, USNR (Ret) .404-304-3313
 2nd VP- Mrs. Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC 360-2936
 Secretary- Mrs. Ginni Eichholz, AuxMbr-Spouse .289-8054
 Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret) 894-3761

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 LTC Pauline Mallory, USA (Ret) 329-8254
 Mrs. Chris Lillich, AuxMbr-A 546-2246

2017-2018 —

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 MAJ Tom Shoupe, USA (Ret) 404-403-1845
 Mrs. Sherry Freese, AuxMbr-N 360-3102

Immediate Past President

COL Roger Popham, USA (Ret) 498-6860

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 Awards Maj Pete Dawson 894-3761
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 1845
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Having trouble reading the *Officers Call*? Have a home computer?

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 me at 727-522-6237.

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

CALENDAR

May 19th, Friday. Chapter Memorial Service

June 16th, Friday: Speaker:

July 21st, Friday. Speaker: "The Nurses"

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

Call: LTC Bill Eichholz, 289-9653

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

May 1st Monday

June 5th Monday

July 3rd Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

Next luncheon: 11:30, 9 May, Vinoy Hotel

Program: Installation of Officers and Tour

Reservations: Rose Munchbach, 727-397-4146

Membership Info: Fran Chancey, 727-251-9653

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

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 193
 Regular Members - 132
 Auxiliary Members - 61

Military Services:

Army - 62	USMC - 8
USAF - 30	USCG - 7
Navy - 25	NOAA - 0

4/24/2017



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 3 April 2017 Reported by Ginni Eichholz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz and the Invocation was given by Glenn Crabb. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Eichholz. Larry Fernald motioned that the Secretary's Minutes be accepted as published. Ed Lillich seconded the motion. Minutes accepted as published.



Bill thanked Larry Fernald for taking over the data base management function again. Since reinstating the OC Booster Fund in MAR 2017, donations are coming in. Pauline Edwards will sell copies of a book, The Bridges of Vietnam written by her husband, Fred L. Edwards, Jr., Lt. Colonel, USMC (ret.), at our monthly luncheons. The books will sell for \$10.00 each and all proceeds will be donated to SPA-MOAA, OC Booster Fund.

Larry made motion to accept Treasurers report subject to changes made reflecting \$970.00 in donations to the OC Booster Fund. Violet Smith 2nd the motion. Treasurers report accepted subject to audit. Glen Crabb Glenn as acting assistant Chaplain during George Brown's continuing recovery will write a monthly Chaplains Corner for the OC.

Pauline Mallory is in rehab after a tough foot surgery. Hoping you will be better than ever Pauline. Pauline Edwards reported that the press releases advertising MOAA had been sent to local papers. Ed Lillich has ordered medals and folders for JROTC awards ceremonies at a cost of \$49.95. Ed motioned to that we allow \$80.00 per year for medals for JROTC. Motion was 2nd by Ginni Eichholz. Motion approved.

Ed Lillich also motioned that we spend \$49.95 for additional JROTC medals for this year. Motion was 2nd by Pauline Edwards. Motion approved. Roger Popham reported that Heaven on Earth for Vets needs five welcome baskets. Fran Chancey will purchase the baskets. A suggestion was made that all our Chapter audio visual equipment be held by the Chapter president. Anyone having equipment please give it to the president. Our membership roster/directory cost for 2017 will cost about \$700.00. We will be exploring ways to cut these costs this year. A Chapter member also pointed out that our American flag is slightly

smaller than the MOAA flag. We are looking at the cost of replacing the American flag or purchasing a new MOAA flag with the new logo and of the same size as our American flag.

After lunch, Glen led the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

Luncheon Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 21 April 2017 Reported by Ginni Eichholz, Secretary

The Luncheon meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz. Glen Crabb led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Eichholz.

Jim McCormick was a guest.

Door prize winner was Bill Lofgren.

50/50 winners were John Schoeppner and Linda Dusincki.

After a very delicious lunch and an amazingly rich chocolate desert Pete Gunderson introduced our guest speaker, former St Petersburg mayor, Rick Baker. Rick gave a wonderful presentation and slide show of the vision for bringing a professional soccer team to St Petersburg. Afterwards he answered questions from the group.

Pauline Edwards offered for sale Fred Edwards books at a cost of \$10.00 each with profits going to the Chapter OC Booster Fund. She donated \$80.00 from sales of Fred's books. The books will be available at next month's meeting as well. The book is well written and highly informative concerning a Marine's observations in Vietnam concerning Intelligence activities. This book would make a great gift!

The luncheon was adjourned after a benediction by Glen Crabb.

Respectfully submitted
Ginni Eichholz
Secretary



Legislative Update

From MOAA and other sources

REPEAL SEQUESTRATION

Unless current law is changed, sequestration will return next year and automatically trigger deep cuts to the Defense Department. These severe cuts will exhaust our resources and capabilities in immeasurable ways-the toll on our military and their families will likewise be incalculable.

FY17 BUDGET AND DEFENSE SPENDING IN LIMBO

April 14, 2017

Members of Congress adjourned Friday, April 7, for a two-week recess, and headed back to their home states and districts, leaving great uncertainty as to what will happen regarding the 2017 budget and associated defense spending.

The government is currently being funded under a continuing resolution (CR), which was signed by President Barack Obama Dec. 10, 2016. The previously passed resolution runs out April 28, just four days after members of Congress return from their recess.

Under a CR, funding remains under the previous year's levels and the start of new programs is not authorized, except in rare circumstances.

When Congress returns, it will face limited options and minimal time to resolve this funding dilemma. Of concern is the potential option of a new CR that would simply carry the government through to the end of the fiscal year. If this is the vote, it will not be well received by those in DoD.

"Candidly, failure to pass a budget, in my view both as an American citizen and chief of staff of the United States Army, constitutes professional malpractice," stated Gen. Mark Milley in testimony along with the other service chiefs this past week before the House Armed Services Committee.

"Adopting a full year CR would mean cancelled training, costly maintenance delays, and supply shortages across the military," said Air Force Chief of Staff General David Goldfein in the same hearing.

The service chiefs all argued the cumulative effects of eight years CRs and five years of caps on spending have devastated the military just as potential challengers have made significant investments in their own military forces.

So in looking at other options, Congress could pass a funding bill for DoD, though most likely not for any other federal departments. The appropriators in Congress could also pass a CR that would include a number of so-called anomalies that would permit DoD to spend money as it requires, within the statutory cap on total defense spending.

Whatever necessary spending adjustments are not covered by

the approved anomalies could be changed in one of two other ways: either by DoD redirecting funds within its budgets or, for larger amounts of money, by congressional approval to reprogram funds.

"On balance, a CR is a poor way to manage programs but Congress, the Pentagon, and the White House would probably ensure that the worst effects do not happen," former DoD Comptroller Bob Hale stated recently.

MOAA strongly urges Congress to pass a defense spending bill when it returns from recess. We agree with the service chiefs: Anything short constitutes a failure of Congress' most important responsibility under the Constitution - to provide the necessary resources for the nation's defense.

WHAT RAISE DO TROOPS DESERVE FOR 2018?

October 28, 2016

Hot off the wire at 8:00 Friday morning: The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced the average American saw a 2.4-percent pay raise over the last 12 months.

What's the significance of that?

By law, that will be the basic pay raise currently serving troops will see in January 2018 - unless the new president elects to submit an alternative raise "because of national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare."

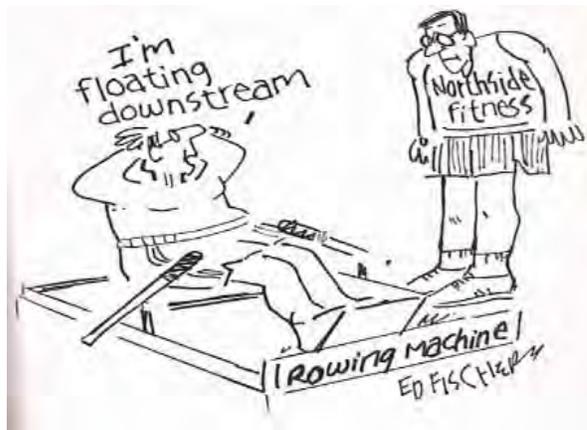
In 2004, Congress tied the annual military raise to the annual growth in the BLS' Employment Cost Index (ECI).

Because the 2018 raise has to be submitted in the president's budget a year ahead of time, that raise is determined by measuring ECI growth from September 2015 to September 2016.

The 2017 raise was supposed to be 2.1 percent, based on the ECI standard, but the president proposed an alternative 1.6-percent raise. Congress still has to decide during the post-election lame duck session if it'll let the 1.6-percent pay cap stand or pass legislation raising it back to 2.1 percent.

MOAA worked hard to persuade Congress to enact the ECI standard and believes strongly it should be upheld every year.

Unfortunately, it has been capped below that standard for the last three years. Hopefully, that trend will end for 2017 and 2018.



WHO MOVED THE PELIKAN?

By Hardy W. Bryan, LTC, USA, (Ret)
(Printed with permission from LTC Bryan)

The German Army could not stop him. He defeated the Axis' best general in Africa. The German High Command and Hitler himself delayed the release of their reserve forces that may have destroyed the D-Day landing for fear of him and their belief that he was going to land a stronger force somewhere else. Lt. General George S. Patton commanded a fake army, a non-existent force that fooled the Germans. Once the invasion gained ground, General Patton took command of the Third Army. After some stunning successes, he was literally stopped in his tracks. His tanks went, "Sputter, sputter," then silence. Did the enemy do this? Had Patton met his match? No. The Allies High Command shut off his supply of fuel in order to supply other, higher priority units. His tanks and trucks ran dry and stopped in place, out of gas. The Third Army was rendered totally incapable of fighting.

When the Battle of the Bulge took place and the forces in and near Bastogne were about to be overrun, the Allied High Command refueled Patton. With his gas tanks full, he boldly and rapidly advanced the Third Army into a lightning-fast, three-day road march and without a pause, went directly into battle, destroying the final German offensive of the war.

This well-known and well-documented history snippet tells us that no matter how brilliant, how aggressive, or how successful a combat leader is, he is controlled less by the enemy, but more by his own logistics, in this case, gasoline. This is why battle plans concentrate on destroying the enemy's supplies, most often, his petroleum resources. This is done tactically, on the battlefield, and strategically, in destroying the enemy's petroleum sources, refineries and distribution network.

Now, we fast-forward to the Vietnam War. Our enemy was nowhere near as sophisticated as were the Japanese and Germans. The Viet Cong were guerillas, rice paddy farmers by day and fighters at night. Their weapons were mostly small arms, satchel charges, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and unguided rockets. They had no air or naval support. They were supplied with a human bucket brigade from North Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh trail. Also fighting was the North Vietnamese Army, better trained and equipped, but also lacking in modern weapons and virtually no vehicles, planes or naval vessels that operated in South Vietnam.

Our forces had it all and never lost a major battle. Because of a strong and plentiful, uninterrupted logistical support structure, no supply economy was ever practiced to conserve vital war materiel. Throughout the conflict, there were no reports of any unit running out of gas or ammunition. In some famous sieges by the NVA, supplies were airdropped to insure no shortages occurred.

The US and allied forces were heavy users of petroleum that came in many forms and varieties. They were either bulk fuel or packaged products. There were four types of bulk fuel, namely JP-4, Mogas, Avgas and diesel fuel. Military jargon for jet fuel is JP and then a number, in Vietnam, JP-4. "Mogas" is motor gas, and is the same gas you put in your car. "Avgas" is aviation gasoline, used in piston-driven airplane engines. Diesel fuel was never given a military name for some reason.

In Vietnam, the volume of these fuels, from that with the greatest number of gallons, were in this order: JP-4, Diesel, Mogas and Avgas. By far, the greatest amount of fuel consumed was JP-4 because of cargo planes, jet fighters and helicopters.

Opposing sides have called truces since the beginning of armed conflict. In early times, they were called because of winter or immediately after battle, to remove the dead and wounded, with soldiers from both sides intermingling to find their comrades. Sometimes these truces were arranged with direct communications between agents of each side, and sometimes through a third, neutral party. In Vietnam, there was no direct contact between the opposing forces, so a truce was simply announced by the side wanting it. There was a tacit understanding that about the fourth week in January, there would be a Tet truce and at the end of the year there would be a Christmas truce of equal duration. These truces took place every year of the war.

Tet is a Vietnamese holiday period during which many special events are celebrated in a one-week period, such as everyone's birthday and anniversary, a sort of new year's, a day to respect ancestors, and a gift-giving occasion. Because Christmas is near the end of the year and Tet is near the beginning of the next year, the truces are just a month apart.

Both sides did a respectable job in honoring the truces, with a few minor, isolated violations. The Viet Cong and the NVA took truces as opportunities to move as much logistics as possible without fear of attack or bombing. The US and its allies used truces as a break from warfare, a time for rest and relaxation while staffing with minimum security. In fact, when a truce was about to begin, there was almost a "truce eve" as things began to wind down the afternoon before the truce actually began.

Bulk and packaged fuels, oil and lubricants or "POL" in military lingo, so vital to keeping our war machine running, was received, stored and distributed by three POL battalions, one near Saigon at Long Binh, one in DaNang, and the 262nd Quartermaster (POL) Battalion in Cam Ranh Bay.

The Cam Ranh peninsula featured the South China Sea to the east with the bay on the west side. It is rated as the finest natural deepwater port in Southeast Asia. To the north, where the peninsula was connected to the mainland, it was very mountainous, not passable for military operations. Traveling south down the landmass was a convalescent hospital, then Cam Ranh Bay Air Force Base from which missions flew throughout Vietnam. The base was huge and capable of operating every size plane in its inventory. Next was the ammunition storage area, known as the ammo dump, then two tank farms which

See Pelikan, Page 8





Guest speaker, Rick Baker, former Mayor of St Petersburg



Katie Crabb and George Stenehjelm



Pete Dawson



Glen and Katie Crabb



John Schoepner



Ellen Marie and Ken Fine



Linda and Richard Dusincki



Jo and Jim Ward



Tom Shoupe



Jim McCormick



Ginni and Bill Eichholz



Sherry Freese

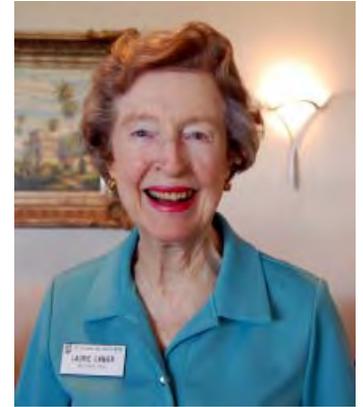




Jacquie D'Louhy



Pete Gunderson presenting Rick Baker with the traditional chapter glasses, with Bill Eichholz looking on



Laurie Lanier



Evey Hamilton presenting 50/50 winnings to Richard Dusinski



Kathy and Pete Gunderson



Evey Hamilton presenting 50/50 winnings to John Schoeppner



Fran Shivers



Evey Hamilton and Pauline Edwards



Ed and Chris Lillich



Peter Hermann



Pat and John Struchen



Roger and Jeanie Popham

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

Pelikan, from Page 5

consisted of many, many steel POL storage tanks, and finally the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, which managed all the logistics in central Vietnam and ran the Cam Ranh Bay Depot. The Depot consisted of many warehouses, outdoor storage areas, port operations and all the units necessary to operate the workload. The 262nd Quartermaster POL Battalion was the unit that managed POL, both bulk and packaged.

This Battalion consisted of a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 524th Quartermaster POL Operating Company, the 525th Quartermaster POL Depot Company, and the 360th Transportation Truck Company. The 524th was responsible for pumping bulk POL from commercial tankers tied up to the POL jetty, piping the fuel through two six-inch pipelines to the tank farm. The 525th operated the packaged products warehouse, the truck fill stand, the POL lab, the drum yard, a POL staging area at the air base, and five helicopter refueling facilities in the Central Highlands. The transportation company operated three platoons of 5000-gallon bulk fuel tankers that convoyed to many destinations in the area of operations. The air base was fueled via a direct pipeline from the tank farm. All POL in Vietnam flowed through one of these three battalions.

One might wonder why the attacks on the logistical base were so few and even fewer against the POL facilities. Did they not know how vital to our capability to wage war depended on POL? Even the 5000-gallon tank trucks conveying through their territory were seldom attacked. They were so rarely hit by enemy fire it could be assumed they were not targeted.

The crack Republic of Korea's White Horse Division was deployed across Cam Ranh Bay with the primary mission of protecting the Cam Ranh peninsula. A US Navy operation called Market Time conducted anti-infiltration operations and protected the port. It consisted of swift boats, always on patrol in port and around ships at anchor in the outer harbor. Market Time forces had not been challenged and the ROK White Horse Division never had to contend with an attack aimed at the huge logistical base. Troops stationed there were considered so safe and free of threat that unit weapons and ammo were kept in unit arms rooms. It was more akin to a stateside encampment than a combat zone facility. There were few bunkers as there was little reason to fear a ground attack or indirect fire from shore, the sea or from the air.

That was the situation when I arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the 262nd. I was a newly promoted captain and graduate of the officer's POL course at Fort Lee, Virginia. I was given the staff job of security, but since there was so little need to worry about security, my duties were actually with the operations staff. Other than controlling classified documents, there was not one security function I was expected to accomplish. I was there to be part of the planning and execution of the POL mission. Occasionally a classified report would arrive containing some information about enemy activity, but those reports were so old the same data had already been printed in newspapers and magazines! In other words, they were useless. Anyway, they never applied to my unit.

See Pelikan, Page 10

Financial Report Summary for the Month of March 2017

Operating Income

.... Luncheon Income	\$ 835.00
.... Dues	\$ 280.00
.... 50/50	\$ 21.00
.... Miscellaneous Income	\$
.... Officers Call	\$ 970.00
.... Interest Earned	\$ 40
Total Income	\$ 2,106.40

Operating Expenses

.... Luncheon Expense	\$ 655.79
.... Supplies	\$ (7.00)
.... Honoraria/Donations	\$
.... Post Office	\$
.... Printing	\$
.... Other Organizations	\$
.... Memorials SF	\$ 50.00
.... Newsletter Costs	\$ 312.92
.... VA/JROTC	\$
.... Misc Expenses	\$
Total Expenses	\$ 1,011.71
..... Operations Cash Flow	\$ 1,094.69

Operating Fund Summary

.... Starting balance	\$ 1,660.40
.... Cash Flow	\$ 1,094.69
.... Ending Balance	\$ 2,755.09

Scholarship Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 535.00
.... Donations and 50/50	\$ 400.00
.... Memorials	\$ 50.00
.... Expended	\$
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 985.00

HOT/HOEV Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 4,782.81
.... Donations	\$ 300.00
.... Expenses	\$
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 5,082.81

Officers Call Booster

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 00.00
.... Donations	\$ 970.00
.... Ad Income	\$
.... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 970.00



2017 Help Our Troops Heaven on Earth for Veterans Donors

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

••GOLD –

Alvarez, Jeanne Mrs.
Bolin, Bill CDR
Carr, Paulette Mrs.
Carr, Terry LTC
Edwards, Pauline
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Finley, Paul LCDR
Freese, Sherry Mrs.
Gioe', Shirley Mrs.
Hamilton, Evey Mrs.
Harrison, Christa Mrs.
Holmes, Lee LTC
Kottich, Chuck COL
Lofgren, Bill Col
Mallory, Pauline LTC
Milford, John Lt Col
Misurca, A.J. 1st Lt
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Palmer, Stew Col
Popham, Roger COL

Poteat, Gen Mrs.
Sims, Bob Maj
Sjolund, Carol Mrs.
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Summers, Stormy Col
Talbitzer, John LT

••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL
Hansen, Gidge CPT
Myers, Asa Mrs.
Terry, Maxine Mrs.
Tondreau, Tunney CWO4

••BRONZE –

D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.
Edwards, Richard CAPT
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen

Member donations ONLY:
\$1,780 as of 4/24/2017

May Birthdays (35 to 92 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
1	Ammon	Robert	CDR	USCG (Ret)
11	Bax	Giles	COL	USA (Ret)
07	Bolin	William	CDR	USNR (Ret)
08	Carr	Terry	LTC	USA (Ret)
11	Comeau	Ronald	MAJ	USA (Ret)
4	Cvetkovic	Milan	Mr.	AuxMbr-Spouse
22	Fine	Ellen Marie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse
1	Hamilton	Evelyn	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
23	Hintze	Claudie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
11	Langston	Gregory	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
04	McDonough	Michael	LtCol	USMC (Ret)
03	Musselwhite	Charlie	CWO4	USA (Ret)
17	Pav	Peter	COL	USA (Ret)
10	Rafferty	John	LCDR	USCG (Ret)
27	Simmons	Donald	CWO4	USN (Ret)
02	Smith	Violet	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
24	Warren	Judith	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)

2017 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.
Eichholz, Bill LTC
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Sherry Mrs.
Gunderson, Pete CAPT
Hamilton, Evey Mrs.
Lofgren, Bill Col
Milford, John Lt Col
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Palmer, Stew Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Popham, Roger COL
Sjolund, Carol Mrs.
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Talbitzer, John LT

••SILVER –

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

••BRONZE –

Bax, Giles COL
Bolin, Bill CDR
Crabb, Glen CDR
D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.
Edwards, Richard CAPT
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Gioe', Shirley Mrs.
Gunderson, Kathy Mrs.
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Roberson, Hal Col
Terry, Maxine Mrs.
Tondreau, Tunney CWO4

Member donations ONLY:
\$2,473 as of 4/24/2017

2017 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors

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

••GOLD –

Edwards, Pauline Mrs.
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Sherry Mrs.
Gunderson, Pete CAPT
Hamilton, Evey Mrs.
Lofgren, Bill Col
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.

Popham, Roger COL
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••SILVER –

Christie, Bob LtCol

••BRONZE –

Lanier, Laurie Maj

Member donations ONLY:
\$1,355.00 as of 4/24/2017



Pelikan from Page 10

I arrived in November 1967. A couple times a week, when things were quiet, I would take my jeep, cross the long pontoon bridge to the mainland, drive through areas known to be safe only during daylight hours, into the headquarters of the ROK White Horse Division, in time to be present for the intelligence briefing delivered by US officers to the South Koreans. I went, not to hear the intelligence portion of the briefing, but to learn if the White Horse Division was planning to conduct an operation we were not aware of, as it sometimes did. Whenever the US forces, and usually when the Korean forces planned an operation, we were informed beforehand and we made sure there was adequate POL pre-positioned to supply the needs of the involved units. But when the Koreans conducted warfare we did not know about, there would be a POL emergency, requiring us to react and supply their sudden and unexpected needs.

My first truce was Christmas. It would have been a time to relax and enjoy the holiday, but President Lyndon Johnston flew to Cam Ranh to "have Christmas with the troops." With a target like our President walking around, our Christmas day was spent on alert, with weapons and ammo drawn, and our troops deployed around the facilities we operated. We watched Air Force One fly in and later, fly out. There was no enemy activity and we stood down for the rest of the truce period.

Hostilities resumed, but they waned as the Tet truce loomed. On the 29th of January, 1968, it was Tet eve. I was the battalion duty officer. The battalion commander, his executive officer and the operations officer had already started their time off. There was no other officer on duty, so I had to remain on the job while others relaxed. With nothing for me to do either, I took my jeep over to the Korean compound for the briefing so see if they planned any offensive action when the truce was over. As long as I was in radio contact with battalion, I could go where my duties took me.

I was halfway listening to the intelligence portion of the briefing when I heard that a NVA underwater demolition team was known to be in the area and its target was the POL ship tied to the jetty in Cam Ranh Bay. What? Did I hear that right? Yes, I had. No timetable was given for such an attack, but having never heard any sort of threat before this, it tends to make one sit up in his chair. Had any similar warning emulated from the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command? No.

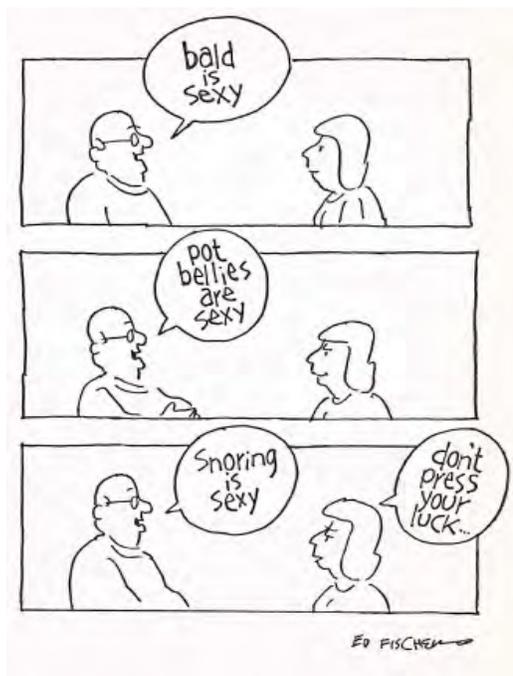
Driving that jeep as fast as I dared, I went to the one-way-at-a-time bridge only to find it was open to traffic coming from the peninsula. So I had to wait thirty minutes until that traffic cleared before I could cross. I did manage to get my jeep first in line and once on the other side, made a beeline for the battalion headquarters. It was even sleepier than it was when I left, with only a handful of non-commissioned officers on duty. There was a tanker, the Pelikan, a Shell Oil Company ship based in the Netherlands, on the jetty pumping JP-4 to the tank farms. Due to the usual high demand for JP-4 and because it had been a while since a tanker with JP-4 docked, our inventory was lower than normal.

It was about 4 PM when I returned. I made several attempts to contact the commander, the executive officer and the operations officer with this unsettling bit of information. I had one of the non-commissioned officers continuously stay on the radio calling those officers and sent runners to their quarters and places they might have been, all to no avail. I was the only officer on duty at the headquarters.

There was no standard operating procedure that covered anything like this. There was no one to consult with. I issued orders to move the Pelikan from the jetty to the safer open waters at the mouth of Cam Ranh Bay. This caused a lot of unplanned action. Personnel to handle the mooring lines, the tugboats, the men to disconnect the hoses from the ship, the briefing of the ship's captain, all had to be done before dark. And I ordered the 524th to place additional armed guards aboard ship to remain overnight until the ship was returned to port the next day. While all this was going on, attempts to locate my senior officers continued unabated and without success.

I was scared. Not because of enemy action as I sort of assumed there would be none, but scared of the reaction of the battalion commander who would be furious. I had never done anything like this before and we had never moved a ship from the jetty under threat of attack. I knew I would be labeled an alarmist, but I did what I thought was the right thing to do. Period. The company commander of the 524th, when he got word that I ordered more guards to be placed on the ship, raised hell with me. He was a senior captain to me but after his tirade, rounded up his troops and had them on board before the ship left the jetty.

Find out what happened to the Pelikan and the outcome of then-Captain Bryan's decision in next month's award-winning *Officers Call*





Welcome Our New Members!

◆ Sadly, no new members



TAPS

Thankfully, no one.

Sick List

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- * LTC Pauline Mallory
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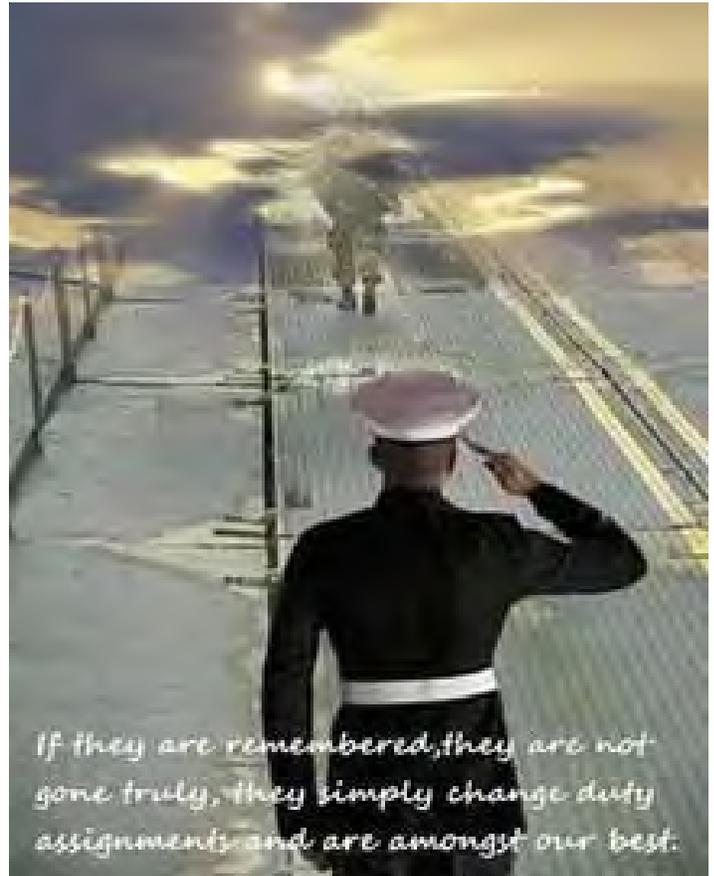
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To honor chapter members who have passed away during the past year, the St Petersburg Area Chapter conducts a Chapter Memorial Service during its May monthly luncheon. Members are encouraged to wear his/her uniform for this memorial service.

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If they are remembered, they are not gone truly, they simply change duty assignments and are amongst our best.

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US Military Holidays and Observances

May: National Military Appreciation Month

7-13 May: Public Service Recognition Week

8 May: Victory in Europe (V-E) Day

12 May: Military Spouse Appreciation Day (Just a day?)

13-20 May: Armed Forces Week

20 May: Armed Forces Day

29 May: Memorial Day