



# OFFICERS CALL

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



**VOL VIII No. XI ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-08 ★★★★★ November 2009**  
**Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!**

## President's Comments:

In case you have not noticed, we have had, and will continue to have, excellent and entertaining speakers at our luncheons. So, if you have not been to a luncheon in a while, please give us another try. I promise you will be rewarded by the messages presented.



For example, in addition to the excellent speaker coming in November, LtCol Thomas Hagman, from the Swedish Armed Forces, stationed at CENTCOM, we have on tap for December Air Force Captain Patricia Hayden, a critical care nurse onboard C-17 flights from the middle east. These flights transport our more seriously wounded. You won't want to miss either of these luncheons.

December will also be our Toys for Tots month. Please plan to bring a new, unwrapped gift for a boy or girl, and the Marine Corp Reserve folks who run the program will ensure it is delivered to those who can use it the most.

Then, on January 16th, we are having our annual installation banquet at the Bayou Country Club. Our speaker will be RADM Tom Hall, USN (Ret), and former Undersecretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs under Presidents Bush and Obama. Here's another one you won't want to miss.

Changing gears, as of Friday the 16th, there were approximately 2/3 of the members who had renewed their membership for 2010. Thank you for that effort. It greatly simplifies my job and reduces the costs to the Chapter, since I won't have to send out second notices.

For the remaining 1/3, please send in your renewal check and any database updates needed....and, of course, donations to any of our funds should you wish to make them.

I promised Jim that I would be brief, since this is a crowded issue as it is, so in closing, let me remind you that if you wish to attend a luncheon, please call or mail your reservation in early. And, please also remember that if you need a ride to the luncheons, call me and I will arrange that for you. My number is on page 2.

## Our November Speaker: LtCol Thomas Hagman

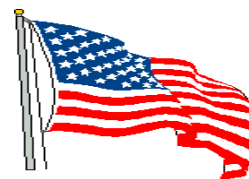
LtCol Hagman is a member of the Swedish Armed Forces and is assigned to the Liaison Office of US CENTCOM in Tampa. He was born in Gothenburg, Sweden. He and his wife Eva have two teenage sons. Some of his previous assignments include; CO



Airborne Ranger School in Karlsborg, Head of OSI at Swedish Military Intelligence and Security Directorate in Stockholm, CO Swedish National Intelligence Cell, ISAF in Kabul, Teacher at Swedish National Defence College Stockholm. He will be speaking about his life in Sweden as a background to his view of the coalition, USA and Global War on Terrorism.

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**Fly the flag November 11th**  
**Veteran's Day**



## Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up - 2008

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- Reporter/Photos – CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### DIRECTORS

**President- Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF ..... 522-6237**  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP- MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- LTC Terry Carr, USA ..... 392-6524  
 Secretary- Mrs. Chris Lillich ..... 546-2246  
 Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF ..... 894-3761

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 CDR Maureen Conners, USN ..... 347-7976  
 Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMember-N ..... 347-3730  
**2009 & 2010 —**  
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 LT Ed Conners, USN ..... 347-7976  
 Mrs. Barbara Walters, AuxMember-A ..... 595-4619  
**Immediate Past President**  
 CAPT Don Freese, USN ..... 360-3102

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising ..... LTC Janice Mogan, USA ..... 381-3997  
 Auxiliary Liaison ..Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N .. 367-9050  
 Awards ..... Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF ..... 525-1688  
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 Electronic Info ..... Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF ..... 522-6237  
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 MacDill Liaison ..Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Master at Arms .... CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG ..... 821-7365  
 Membership ..... LTC Terry Carr, USA ..... 381-3997  
 Memorial ..... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Newsletter ..... CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG ..... 393-4160  
 Nominating Cmte Col Bill Lofgren, USAF ..... 528-3946  
 Personal Affairs ..Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Programs ..... MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246  
 Publicity: ..... Mrs. Chris Lillich ..... 546-2246  
 Reservations ..... LCDR Paul Finley ..... 391-5908  
 ROWC Liaison ..... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Scholarships: ..... Col Stew Palmer, USAF ..... 343-5022  
 TOPS ..... COL Ron Merritt, USA ..... 367-9809  
 VA Vol Svc ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN .... 545-3884  
 Vet Liaison ..... MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246  
 Visitation ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN .... 545-3884

## Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 310  
 Regular Members - 224  
 Auxiliary Members - 85  
 Inactive Members - (6)

### Military Services:

Army - 72                      USMC - 16  
 USAF - 77                     USCG - 8  
 Navy - 52                      NOAA - 0

10/17/2009

**Luncheon Meetings** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday — mixer  
 11:00 - 11:45 luncheon; program 11:45 - 13:15;  
 BanquetMasters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Pk.

## CALENDAR

**November 20<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. LtCol Thomas Hagman Swedish Armed Forces US CENTCOM

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Capt. Patricia A. Hayden USAFR

**January 16<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday. Installation Dinner, RADM Tom Hall USN (Ret)

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. BGen Gary E. Brown USMC (Ret)

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

**Call: LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908**

**or 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.

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

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** Monday

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

## ROWC

### Luncheons:

- 10 November--11:30, Dolphin Inn, 4900 Gulf Blvd
  - 14 December--11:30, Isla del Sol, 6000 Sun Blvd
  - January thru May--Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd
- Luncheon Reservations: Bobbie Walters, 595-4619, or Evelyn Hamilton, 399-1272

**Bridge:** (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

**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.





## The Buzz

### Chapter Happenings and Items of Interest

CWO4 Jim Patton USCG (Ret)

393-4160 or jimuscg@tampabay.rr.com

### Chapter Dues Renewal Letters

Early in October each member should have received his/her annual Chapter dues renewal letter (not to be confused with MOAA national dues, which are paid separately). This communication serves a number of functions, as follows:

- States your annual chapter dues amount (or may say 'Paid' if you've already paid this years dues);
- Reminds you of your MOAA (national) Annual dues renewal date (or your 'Life-MOAA' status);
- Indicates your 2009 donations to date, and;
- Shows, on the second page, the data in your database record for your approval or correction.
- Please remember that donations received will be credited to the 2009 year. If you wish to have your donation credited to 2010, please mail it in after the first of the year. Please make your check out to SPAMOAA.

### Election of 2010 Officers

The election of officers for the year 2010 will be held at the luncheon on December 18th. The ballot is on page 12 please complete & bring to Nov.20<sup>th</sup> or Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> luncheon meetings, or mail to the Chapter P. O. Box.

### Calling all Nurses

Our December luncheon speaker Capt. Trish Hayden USAFR is an RN, BSN and is a Critical Care Transport Team Nurse at Patrick AFB. I am sure it will be a very interesting presentation. We are also asked to bring unwrapped toys to the meeting for Toys for Tots.

### Installation Banquet

Mark your calendar for January 16, 2010 for our installation banquet which will be held the Bayou Club. Our keynote speaker will be RADM Tom Hall USN (Ret). Reservation form is on page 9.

### University Village

University Village in Tampa, a retirement community, is inviting any of our members who would like to visit and tour their campus. Bus transportation and lunch will be provided. If you would be interested in visiting please contact Bill Bolin at (727) 584-1595. Time and date to be determined.

### Monthly Luncheon

When making out check for monthly luncheon it should be made out to **SPA MOAA**. Also please make your reservation before the cutoff date so we can provide the caterer with the proper count.



### A Legacy is Born

During the American Revolution, many important political discussions took place in the inns and taverns of Philadelphia, including the founding of the Marine Corps.

A committee of the Continental Congress met at Tun Tavern to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore.

The resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming the *Continental Marines*.

As the first order of business, Samuel Nicholas became Commandant of the newly formed Marines. Tun Tavern's owner and popular patriot, Robert Mullan, became his first captain and recruiter. They began gathering support and were ready for action by early 1776.

Each year, the Marine Corps marks November 10th with a celebration of the brave spirit which compelled these men and thousands since to defend our country as United States Marines.

## November Birthdays

(59 to 95 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
26	Alvarez	Jeanne	Mrs.	AuxMbr-MC
02	Bihn	Lois	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
22	Blatt	Donald	LTC	USA (Ret)
21	Brauner	Clarence	COL	USA (Ret)
22	Christner	Alan	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
17	Cowsert	Mary	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
11	Dollahon	Jack	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
16	Dwyre	G.Thurman	Col	USAF (Ret)
17	Flint	John	Col	USAF (Ret)
08	Flynt	Gertrude	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
01	Hansen	George	CPT	USA (Fmr)
09	King	Monroe	CAPT	USN (Ret)
05	Lorence	Marie	LTC	USA (Ret)
03	Maratos	Stanley	Col	USAF (Ret)
16	Milford	John	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
12	Nolan	Richard	Col	USAF (Ret)
06	O'Hern	Luther	Col	USAF (Ret)
26	Penny	John	LCDR	USNR (Ret)
19	Rohatsch	Ralph	Maj Gen	USAF (Ret)
21	Sears	Claire	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
27	Taylor	Dorothea	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
13	Vaughn	Sidney	RADM	USCG (Ret)
27	Walters	Barbara	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
07	Wilson	Marc	CDR	USCG (Ret)

### TRIVIA

Which two nations, constitutionally barred from military actions, sent money to support the Allied coalition against Iraq in "1991"?

See Trivia page 10





## Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 5 October 2009 Reported by Chris Lillich, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by First Vice President, Ed Lillich who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Fourteen members were present including Bill Bolin, Terry Carr, Ed Conners, Pete Dawson, Paul Finley, Don Freese, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Stew Palmer, Jim Patton, Earl Peck, Bobbi Walters and guest, Betty Finley.



Bill Bolin corrected the minutes of September 5, 2009 to change the reference to Bob Williams *being a member of Wesley Chapter of MOAA* to read *Bob Williams of Wesley Chapel*. Pete Dawson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Paul Finley and motion carried. The Treasurer reported that \$6,400 was deposited in the operating account from the convention account and dues are coming in very well for the new year. A complete treasurer's report is found elsewhere in the O.C. Paul Finley moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Jim Patton. Report will be filed for audit.

**First Vice President Report:** Ed Lillich said the programs are set through February of 2010. On October 16 Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats will give a program on the operation of the Sheriff's department; November 20 Lt Col Hagman, the Chief of the Swedish Contingent at USCENTCOM will be the speaker; December 18 Captain Patricia "Trish" A. Hayden a nurse with the Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) will present the program; January 16 is our Chapter installation at the Bayou Club and RADM Tom Hall, USN (Ret) will be the keynote speaker. On February 19 Brig.Gen Gary E. Brown, USMC (Ret), a member of our Chapter, will speak about the software system that provides maritime information in the bay area to law enforcement agencies. Also in December the chapter members are asked to bring in new, unwrapped toys for Operation Toys for Tots.

**H.O.T.** Earl Peck has two leads for addresses of military in Afghanistan and will give them to Anita Harrell as soon as he receives them. Don Freese said St. Pete Beach has a program called Support Our Troops and he may be able to get names and addresses from them.

**Scholarship:** Stew Palmer reported \$3,820 contributed towards this year, which gives us \$9,000 for this year's scholarship. We are way ahead of where we thought we would be and should be able to pay out our obligation early.

**Nominating Committee:** Bill Lofgren was happy to announce that Larry Butterfield has accepted the nomination for second vice-president. This then completes the slate which will be presented to the membership for vote. First Vice President Ed Lillich thanked Bill Lofgren for all the work he has done to present a complete slate.

**Reservation Committee:** Betty Finley asked we again stress that all checks for the luncheon be made out to SPAMOOA.

**Officers Call:** In the temporary absence of Hazel McGrath members are asked to contact Jim Patton in case of illness of any of our members. It was noted by Ed Lillich and concurred by the entire board that Jim, a new editor of the O.C. did an outstanding job on the October issue.

**Membership:** Terry Carr reported that a new member has been added to our roles and he is hoping to add another soon. Neither of these came from the letters that were recently sent out. Rosters will be available at the October luncheon of those persons who have received letters and the members will be asked to pick up a list and personally call these potential members. Thirty percent of National MOAA are active duty and are exempt from dues for the first year of joining. The Coast Guard new officer orientation is a good avenue for obtaining members and Don Freese suggests that we pursue this. Jim Patton said that active duty officers were invited to the last meeting of the Warrant Officers' Association and Jim did talk up MOAA at that time.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Vendor Day:** University Village, Ashton Gardens and others have asked to come to our monthly meetings. Earl Peck made a motion and Don Freese seconded same that we allow vendors to set up a table at our luncheons to display their brochures and talk with any of those members interested after the meeting and ask the vendor to make a contribution to H.O.T. in exchange for the vendor table. After discussion the motion passed as presented.

**2010 and 2011 Conventions:** Don Freese said the convention shirts for 2010 are available for \$30.00 can be ordered through the applications for the convention to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ft. Myers 21 – 23 May. The hotel rate is \$90.00 per night, including taxes, and will be paid with the registration fee to the Volusia Chapter. The 2011 convention will be a seven day at sea convention and hosted by the Cape Canaveral Chapter.

**FL Council Board and Committee positions:** Don Freese will be replacing Troy Scott as President of the Florida Council. The Treasurer's position is open as well as Personal Affairs Chairperson. He suggests that this could be chaired by an auxiliary member. If anyone is interested in any of these positions please talk with Don Freese. Awards will be given out at the Chapters instead of at the conventions.

There being no further business the benediction was given by Ed Lillich and the meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be 2 November 2009.

A particularly harsh scam is being reported by many disabled veterans across the country. Apparently, people are making phone calls to veterans stating that they are calling to help guide them through an untrue change in VA pharmacy billing procedures. The group is using the name "Patient Care Group" and have been asking for credit card numbers to complete the setup. This is a scam and an attempt to get information for financial and identity theft. Do not give out any information to any callers claiming to be from this group or anyone from the VA.





## MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

### New Defense Bill has Pluses and Minuses

There will be plenty of cheers and plenty of jeers, depending on which issues are most important to you, for the final version of the FY2010 Defense Authorization Act announced this week by House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders.

First the good news. Among other provisions, the legislation will:

- Bar the Pentagon from Implementing any TRICARE inpatient care copays for FY2010
- Authorize an extra 30,000 troops for the Army (15,000 above the budget request), and an additional 30,000 in FY2011 and FY2012, provided the Pentagon budgets for the increase
- Authorize premium-based TRICARE coverage for “gray area” reserve retirees who haven’t yet attained age 60
- Establish formal requirements for needs assessment and delivery of assistance to military families with children with special needs
- Require a DoD plan to improve access of beneficiaries to health care providers
- Establish a new DoD Task Force to assess progress on care, management and transition of recovering wounded, ill and injured servicemembers

Unfortunately, the new legislation also produced some significant disappointments in that it:

- Dropped the House plan to phase out the disability offset to retired pay for medically retired (chapter 61) members. This is a particularly devastating setback because, for the first time, the President’s budget had included this measure, and House leaders had found funding for the first year. Some in the Senate objected to the specific funding sources identified by the House, and leaders could not find other offsets to comply with Senate budget-scoring rules
- Dropped the Senate initiative to repeal the deduction of VA survivor benefits from military SBP annuities, again for lack of funding offsets
- Dropped a Senate-approved provision to authorize retroactive Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service since Sept. 11, 2001 (current law credits only

service since Jan. 28, 2008), again for lack of funding offsets

- Dropped a Senate-passed provision expressing the sense of Congress that military retirement and health benefits are the primary offset to the extraordinary demands and sacrifices inherent in a military career, that career members deserve a health benefit commensurate with their sacrifices, and that DoD needs to look at other ways to reduce health care spending than shifting more costs to beneficiaries

MOAA continues to be extremely frustrated by Congress’ selective application of budget rules. In recent years, those rules have been routinely waived to pass trillions of dollars in tax reductions, stimulus packages, and bailouts of all sorts (which, to be fair, have included such things as the new GI Bill and military homeowner tax relief), while denying relief to tens of thousands of even more deserving groups whose military service cost them their health, their livelihood and the very lives of their loved ones.

Many in Congress are, in fact, doing their level best to get these things done, and share our frustration at being turned back again and again by budget rules that seem to get tougher each year for our disabled and survivors simply because Congress has kept waiving the rules for so many others that deficits continue to mount ever higher.

That rationale simply doesn’t fly when, year after year, so many big-ticket, politically expedient issues continue to be exempted from the so-called rules while disabled retirees, military widows and Guard/Reserve members with multiple combat tours since 9/11 repeatedly get left with the short end of the budget stick.

### VA staffs office for survivors of veterans

To strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs programs for survivors of the nation’s veterans and servicemembers, the VA has staffed an office to serve as their advocate, with a charter that includes creating or modifying programs, benefits and services.

“Taking care of survivors is as essential as taking care of our veterans and military personnel,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “By taking care of survivors, we are honoring a commitment made to our veterans and military members.”

The office serves as the primary adviser to the secretary on all issues affecting the survivors and dependents of deceased veterans and servicemembers. It will monitor VA’s delivery of benefits to survivors, make appropriate referrals to VA offices for survivors seeking benefits, and explore innovative ways of reaching survivors who are not receiving the VA benefits for which they are eligible.

**See Legislative, Pg 9**





## Monthly Luncheon; 16 October 2009

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

**Attended – 66:** (66 reservations), 0 Member Guest,  
1 Chapter Guest  
[6 Walk-in, 4 No-show]

Today's lunch meeting was a special pleasure for me because it has been several months since I was able to attend. I was greeted with best wishes by many of our members who wished me continued recovery from my accident and even Sheriff Jim Coats came over after I was seated and greeted me. After a very pleasant social hour, our Chapter President Larry Fernald called the meeting to order and asked our First VP Ed Lillich to give the Invocation. He then led us in the pledge to our Flag and Country.



Anita Harrow spoke about the HOT program that she is heading up. She is getting ready to send the Christmas boxes and needs the small boxes of raisins, the almonds such as the Blue Diamond variety, coffee, cocoa, Christmas cards, **no religious cards**, with a brief message of thanks and any other items appropriate to send our troops.

Larry called for recognition of any first-time attendees and there were several. Unfortunately I did not get all their names, but they may be assured that they are most welcome and we hope for their return to future luncheons. Larry welcomed back a member who hasn't been here in a while, Giles Bax. We have a new member who couldn't make it today but LTC Cindy Vettters is expected to make next months (November 20<sup>th</sup>) luncheon. She was recruited by Janice Mogan who does a great job at recruiting new members. Larry then announced members who are on the sick list and that list is on our newsletter, Officers Call. Hazel McGrath is especially worth mentioning considering the extent of her injuries incurred in a fall. She is raring to go.

Violet Smith is leading a contingent of our members who will be escorts at the grand opening of the new Outpatient Clinic at MacDill AFB on Saturday 17 October.

Larry realized that he had not introduced the head table and took this time to do that. From left to right were 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Terry Carr, Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats, President Larry Fernald, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Ed Lillich and Larry Butterfield who donates many goodies for auction at our luncheons. Larry and his wife Debbie are the owners of KILWINS Fudge and Chocolate shop at John's Pass. Now was the time for the door prize and 50-50 drawings and then the drawings for the boxes of fudge provided by Larry Butterfield. Some lucky people won; I didn't. We then broke for lunch.

First VP Ed Lillich introduced our guest speaker Sherriff Jim Coats. Sherriff Coats gave us an account of the money

required to operate the Pinellas County Sheriffs Department. He told us of the many responsibilities and areas of law enforcement covered by the Sheriff and his deputies. He has about 2,900 employees that cover regular law enforcement, the jail and the courthouse deputies who are commonly called bailiffs. He says that today's society does not have the respect for the law as past generations. Some people have no regard for the life of others or their property. Hardly a day goes by that we don't hear of some of the challenges faced by law enforcement officers. The sheriffs department has programs at the jail that attempt to provide skills and education that will help inmates function in society when they are released. The department provides health care for the prisoners.

The education program graduated over 100 prisoners with GED diplomas. The sheriff's department has programs in the community to intercede with young people before they get into trouble. Sheriff Coats believes it is very important to engage kids in activities to avoid future problems. He answered questions, one of which concerned gang activity in the county. He says that Pinellas County keeps a lid on gangs and as a result we don't have a serious gang problem here. There are gangs but law enforcement keeps them pretty much under control in our county.

Sheriff Coats asked for questions and one was "does he anticipate the possibility of consolidation of law enforcement agencies in our county." He answered that he does because of the efficiencies in personnel and money that would result. In answer to a question about illegal aliens he replied that if they haven't committed a crime his office notifies the INS. Criminals are locked up whether illegal or not and the INS is notified about any illegal criminals. After answering a few more questions, Sheriff Coats turned the podium back to our President Larry Fernald.

Larry presented Sheriff Coats with a set of our highball glasses and thanked him for his appearance. He also remarked about the Sheriff's flying skills. Larry then announced our 20 November meeting when our speaker is to be LtCol Thomas Hagmen of the Swedish Armed Forces. LtCol Hagman is assigned to CENTCOM at MacDill. Larry spoke of the problem with the meals that came up because of the number of walk-ins today who had not made reservations. A note: If I have missed something you think important please know that I can only report what I can hear. If I can't hear you I can't report it. Larry asked 1<sup>st</sup> VP Ed Lillich to give the Benediction and then adjourned the meeting.

### **Punishment**

A C-141 cargo plane was preparing for departure from Thule Air Base in Greenland, and they were waiting for the truck to arrive to pump out the aircraft's sewage holding tank. The Aircraft Commander was in a hurry, the truck was late in arriving, and the Airman performing the job was extremely slow in getting the tank pumped out. When the commander berated the Airman for his slowness and promised punishment, the Airman responded, "Sir, I have no stripes, it is 20 below zero, I'm stationed in Thule, and I am pumping sewage out of airplanes. Just what are you going to do to punish me?"





Ed Lillich 2010 Nominee for President



Sheriff Jim Coats Guest Speaker



Basil and Eleanor Burrell



Terry Carr 2010 Nominee for First Vice President



Bill and Lynn Bolin with son Bill Jr on left



Stuart Packer



Paul and Betty Finley



Larry Butterfield 2010 Nominee for Second Vice President



Ralph Settle



Bob Sims



John and Marlene Talbitzer



Pete Dawson 2010 Nominee for Treasurer



Photos by Bill Lofgren



Giles and Pat Bax





*The other day I received a letter from one of the member's of my Veteran's Committee of Suncoast Cathedral, Sgt Art Cheek, USMC, Retired. He sent me a poem written by another one of our Vets, Larry Griffin. I would like to quote both the letter and the poem.*

*Bill Lofgren*

### THE VIETNAM VETS

The Vietnam Vets Poem was written by Larry Griffin, and there is some history to it. I am a Disabled, Retired Marine, Korea, 1952-53, and hired Larry to help me part-time with maintenance jobs. He was an Army sniper in Vietnam, and on one occasion, was bayoneted. As a result, he literally hated the Vietnamese, though he was a Christian. One day, we were on the sidewalk in front of a duplex I own as rental property, and a young Vietnamese woman from the apartment next door came out with her infant baby. We were talking, and for some reason, the baby indicated that it wanted to come to Larry. He took the child in his arms, and you could visibly see the hate he had for so long, leave him. At that moment, Larry realized that this young woman and her child had nothing to do with what happened to him in the war years of Vietnam.

On August 13, 2009, I saw Larry at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center, and he gave me a copy of the Vietnam Vets Poem. He told me that the next Vietnamese he sees, he will personally apologize to them if any of their innocent family members were killed in the conflict.

In the Bible, and the Lord's Prayer, it says "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Larry is now free from the bondage of hate and bitterness that has shadowed his life, and he will forever be a changed man.

You will notice that in Larry's writing, that he opens his heart to the truth, and no hate came into play. From me to my fellow heroes in uniform or out, move on, and enjoy life for a change.

**Semper Fi**

**Arthur M. Cheek**

**USMC Retired**

### VIETNAM VETS

We were soldiers sent to a foreign land,  
 We followed the orders of those in command.  
 We were young boys full of life,  
 In a strange land of death and strife.  
 Soon each boy became a man,  
 Fighting the enemy hand-to-hand.  
 We were heroes not at all,  
 Our Heroes are written on the "Wall."  
 We were captured, killed and maimed,  
 And we fought the enemy under different names.  
 We did not turn tail and flee,  
 As we fought for the "Land of the Free."  
 We came home with smiles on our faces,  
 Only to be looked upon with shame and disgrace.  
 We were called various names and spat upon,  
 This was our welcome home.  
 Because we were combat vets,  
 Our war at home was the worst yet.  
 We are proud of our service rendered,  
 Remember, it was Washington that surrendered.  
 Although the years have come and gone,  
 We still haven't received our welcome home.  
 We served our country by doing our best,  
 We will forever be brothers and Vietnam Vets.

**Larry W. Griffin**

**Vietnam Combat Sniper**

**Phu-Bai/Ashau Valley Vietnam**

**1969-1971 101st ARBN DIV.**

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### 2009 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

**••GOLD –**

Barton, Ann Mrs.  
 Burrell, Basil CWO4  
 Edwards, Fred LtCol  
 Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
 Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
 Finley, J. Paul, LCDR  
 Fratarangelo, Paul MajGen  
 Freese, Donald CAPT  
 Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
 Hoover, Richard Capt  
 Isley, Anne Mrs.  
 Landers, Joan Mrs.  
 Lofgren, William Col  
 Lorence, Marie LTC  
 Love, H. B. COL  
 Munchbach, Rose LTC  
 Nelson, Landy COL  
 Neville, Albert Col  
 Palmer, Stew Col  
 Parsons, Charles Col  
 Patton, Jim CWO4  
 Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
 Sims, Robert Maj  
 Smith, Violet Mrs.  
 Spears, Anse COL  
 Spears, Thomas 2LT  
 Talbitzer, John LT

Flint, John Col  
 Fontana, Ray LT  
 Gottry, Catharine Mrs.  
 Jessup, Jean Mrs.  
 Kisbany, Sara Mrs.  
 Lee, William LCDR  
 Milford, John Lt Col  
 Nolan, Richard Col  
 Phillips, Bettye Mrs.  
 Robertson, Elsie Mrs.

**••BRONZE –**

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col  
 Alvarez, Jeanne Mrs.  
 Cormier, Emery Maj  
 Curren, Henry LT  
 Dawson, Peter Maj  
 D’Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.  
 Eisenhart, William Col  
 Funsch, Richard CAPT  
 Green, Richard CWO4  
 Holecek, John LTC  
 Johnson, Frank LCDR  
 Keene, Bernice Mrs.  
 Kirkland, Doug CDR  
 Lanier, Laurie Maj  
 Martin, Barbara Mrs.  
 McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
 Murphy, Hazel 1LT  
 Shepard, Walter COL  
 Simon, June Mrs.  
 Tondreau, Herb CWO4  
 Trahan, Creighton LTC  
 Varn, Fred Lt Col  
 Wisner, Chuck LCDR

**••SILVER –**

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
 Borrowes, Marja Mrs.  
 Butler, Jerome COL  
 Carr, Terry LTC  
 Caton, Edward Col  
 Christie, Robert LtCol  
 Conners, Ed LT

Member donations ONLY:  
\$4,756 as of 10/16/2009

#### Legislature, from Pg 5

VA benefits for eligible survivors include educational assistance, home-loan guaranties, health-care insurance, and dependency and indemnity compensation. Known as DIC, this is a monthly payment to the survivors of some people who die on active duty and some seriously disabled veterans.

More than 554,000 spouses, dependents and other survivors of veterans are receiving VA benefits. That figure includes nearly 5,000 spouses of World War I veterans, 90 spouses and 94 children of Spanish-American War veterans, and two children of Civil War veterans.

The establishment of this office was authorized in the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. For more information, call 800-827-1000 or visit the VA Web site at [www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/). (Courtesy of VA News Service)

### 2009 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors

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

**••GOLD –**

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
 Carr, Terry LTC  
 Caton, Edward Col  
 Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
 Fine, Kenneth MAJ  
 Fontana, Ray LT  
 Fratarangelo, Paul MajGen  
 Freese, Donald CAPT  
 Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
 Isley, Anne Mrs.  
 Lee, William LCDR  
 Lillich, Ed MAJ  
 Lofgren, William Col  
 Lorence, Marie LTC  
 Love, H. B. COL  
 McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
 Miller, Katherine Mrs.  
 Munchbach, Rose LTC  
 Nelson, Landy COL  
 Neville, Albert Col  
 Palmer, Stew Col  
 Patton, Jim CWO4  
 Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
 Sims, Robert Maj  
 Smith, Violet Mrs.  
 Walters, Bobbie Mrs.

**••SILVER –**

Borrowes, Marja Mrs.  
 Burrell, Basil CWO4  
 Christie, Robert LtCol  
 Dawson, Peter Maj  
 Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
 Green, Richard CWO4  
 Kirkland, Doug CDR  
 Mahan, Allen Lt Col  
 McDonough, Michael LtCol  
 Milford, John Lt Col  
 Nolan, Richard Col  
 Shine, Jack Col

**••BRONZE –**

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col  
 Cormier, Emery Maj  
 DeArment, Harold COL  
 D’Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.  
 Eisenhart, William Col  
 Holecek, John LTC  
 Johnson, Frank LCDR  
 Lanier, Laurie Maj  
 Martin, Barbara Mrs.  
 Parsons, Charles Col  
 Shepard, Walter COL  
 Simon, June Mrs.  
 Spears, Anse COL  
 Tondreau, Herb CWO4  
 Wisner, Chuck LCDR

Member donations ONLY:  
\$2,079 as of 10/16/2009

#### INSTALLATION BANQUET

5:45 PM - 10:00 PM, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2010

Bayou Club

7979 Bayou Club Blvd., Largo 33777

• **Reservations MUST be in by Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

Menu and Cost:

Prime Rib (\$38.50each): \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Piccata (\$38.50 each): \_\_\_\_\_

Salmon (\$37.50 each): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* CLIP and MAIL, with check payable to:  
SPA-MOAA,

Mail to;  
LCDR Paul Finley  
9800 Sago Pt Dr  
Largo, FL 33777

**For late reservations &/or a RIDE,  
call either:**

LCDR Paul Finley 391-5908 or  
Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237





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Thru May 2010

## Financial Report Summary for the Month of September 2009

### Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ (975.99)
..... Donations .....	\$ 385.00
..... Ad Income .....	\$ 0.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses .....	\$ (503.38)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$(1,034.37)

### HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 3,098.05
..... Donations .....	\$ 660.00
..... Expenses .....	\$ 00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 3,758.05

### Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 4,448.41
..... Donations .....	\$ 660.00
..... Memorials .....	\$ 60.00
..... 50/50 Income .....	\$ 36.00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 5,204.41

### Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 1,935.11
..... Monthly Luncheon .....	\$ 700.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10 .....	\$ 1,056.00
..... Miscellaneous Income .....	\$ 6,506.55
..... Luncheon Expense .....	\$ (690.00)
..... Supplies & Non-recurring .....	\$ ( 28.49)
..... Postage .....	\$ (17.60)
..... Printing Expense .....	\$ (273.03)
..... Memorials Expense .....	\$ (60.00)
..... VA/JROTC .....	\$ 0.00
..... Misc Expenses .....	\$ (150.00)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 8,978.54



**Thank You**  
*for your commitment  
and dedicated service  
to your country.*



**Kilwin's**  
Chocolates - Fudge  
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Bring this ad in for a **FREE**  
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**Debbie Butterfield**  
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Email: [LarryButt@netzero.com](mailto:LarryButt@netzero.com)

### Trivia Answer

The two nations, constitutionally barred from military actions, that sent money to support the Allied coalition against Iraq in "1991" were Germany and Japan.





## TAPS

- Mrs. Ella Marie Blatt, Spouse of LTC Donald Blatt, USA (Ret), 3 December 2008
- Mrs. Bobbie Wisner, Spouse of LCDR Charles Wisner, USN (Ret), 22 July 2009

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.

## Sick List

Your cards, prayers, and thoughts are welcome.  
(Contact **LCDR Hazel McGrath**, 545-3884)

*In Hazel's absence, please contact  
CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG (Ret) 727-393-*

- LTC Sarah Niblack, USA (Ret)
- COL Roger Shields, USA (Ret)
- LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN (Ret)
- Col Thurm Dwyre, USAF (Ret)

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Thru June 2010



## Welcome Our New Members!

**LTC Cynthia "Cindy" Vitters, USAR (Ret) 2226**  
Heron Circle, Clearwater 33762,  
828-954-3243

**Mrs Jean Fraser, AuxMbr-CG**  
11714 Parkview Lane, Seminole, 33772 727-  
391-4702

## 2009 Help Our Troops Donors

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

### ••GOLD –

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
Barton, Ann Mrs.  
Bischofs, Henriette Mrs.  
Bolin, Bill CDR  
Carr, Terry LTC  
Caton, Edward Col  
Christner, Alan Lt Col  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Fine, Kenneth MAJ  
Fontana, Ray LT  
Fratarangelo, Paul MajGen  
Freese, Donald CAPT  
Gilchrist, Gary Lt Col  
Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
Hodgen, Betty Mrs.  
Hoffman, Elizabeth Capt  
Isley, Anne Mrs.  
Jessup, Jean Mrs.  
Kirkland, Doug CDR  
Kottich, Charles COL  
Landers, Joan Mrs.  
Lee, William LCDR  
Lofgren, William Col  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
Miller, Katherine Mrs.  
Misuraca A. J. 1 Lt  
Nelson, Landy COL  
Neville, Albert Col  
Newton, Richard Col  
Nolan, Richard Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Patton, Jim CWO4  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Sims, Robert Maj  
Smith, Violet Mrs.  
Spears, Thomas 2LT  
Talbitzer, John LT  
Trahan, Creighton LTC

### •• SILVER –

Augustine, John Col  
Bax, Giles COL  
Borrowes, Marja Mrs.  
**Member donations ONLY:  
\$3,322 as of 10/16/2009**

Burrell, Basil CWO4  
Butler, Jerome COL  
Christie, Robert LtCol  
Dawson, Peter Maj  
D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.  
Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Johnson, Frank LCDR  
Lanier, Laurie Maj  
Martin, Barbara Mrs.  
McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Roberson, Hal Col  
Shine, Jack Col  
Simon, June Mrs.  
Varn, Fred Lt Col

### ••BRONZE –

Alvarez, Jeanne Mrs.  
Andrews, Carroll Lt Col  
Balke, Dale COL  
Bryan, Hardy LTC  
Conneely, Anita Mrs.  
Cormier, Emery Maj  
DeArment, Harold COL  
Dwyer, Thurm Col  
Eisenhart, William Col  
Gottry, Catharine Mrs.  
Holecek, John LTC  
Hoover, Richard Capt  
Munchbach, Rose LTC  
Murphy, Hazel 1LT  
Oster, Evelyn Mrs.  
Parsons, Charles Col  
Reischmann, Richard Maj  
Roe, Bobbie Jo Maj  
Shepard, Walter COL  
Spears, Anse COL  
Steinhilber, Marion LTC  
Taylor, Joanne MAJ  
Tomasulo, Mike Maj  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4  
Vernon, June Mrs.





## Next Meeting

WHEN: **20 NOV 2009**

WHERE: **Banquet Masters,  
8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas  
Park**

TIME: **Social "Hour" 11:00;  
Program begins at 11:45**

SPEAKER: **LtCol Thomas  
Hagman**



### November Events:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Daylight Savings Ends
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Marine Corp (Established 18 Nov 1775)
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Veteran's Day (Fly the Flag)
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Day

### LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, November 20<sup>th</sup>

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• **Reservations by Wednesday Nov 18<sup>th</sup>**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Each** reservation \$12:

Roast Turkey: \_\_\_\_\_

Stuffed Flounder: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Largo, FL 33777**

**For late reservations &/or a RIDE,  
call either:**

**LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908 or**  
**Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237**

### **BALLOT FOR 2010 OFFICERS**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS, DEC 18,  
2009**

Complete & bring to Nov.20<sup>th</sup> or Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>  
luncheon meetings, or mail to the Chapter P. O.  
Box.

President: MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.: LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.: LTJG Larry Butterfield, USN

Secretary: Mrs. Chris Lillich, Spouse

Treasurer: Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret)

#### **Executive Advisory Board**

(Term Expires December 31, 2011)

Col Bill Lofgren USAF (Ret)

1LT Hazel Murphy USANC (Fmr)

Mrs Johnnie Neville, AuxMbr-AF

(Term Expires December 31, 2010)

CDR Bill Bolin, USN (Ret)

CDR Maureen Conners USN (Ret)

Mrs. Barbara Walters, AuxMbr-A

**I ACCEPT THE SLATE AS LISTED**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the slate **except** as indicated

:

\_\_\_\_\_