

November 2017

President's Comments:

I greatly appreciate the large turnout we had for our 20 October Luncheon. We all have much more fun seeing and socializing with so many of our members present. It also helps our financial bottom-line. New visitor to the luncheon was Colonel, USAF (Ret), Mike Henchey. We also welcomed our newest members of the chapter, Dieter and Barbara Weber.



The next important item on our upcoming agenda is our Chapter Fundraiser, "Oktoberfest" to be held on Saturday, 4 November 2017, at the Harbourside Community Club located at 7979 Sailboat Key Blvd., South Pasadena, FL. Cocktails begin at 5:00 PM with dinner commencing at 6:30 PM. Menu includes German food and drinks: beer, wine, potato salad, red cabbage and apple strudel. Activities include a drawing, Oktoberfest music and a live auction. Donations are tax deductible and cost is \$50 per person. This is a major fund-raising event sponsored by your St. Petersburg Chapter of MOAA. Please invite your friends and family. Make your checks payable to SPA-MOAA and mail to Ginni Eichholz at 8136 Willow Court, Seminole, FL 33776. We really need your support! Please call with your RSVP to Ginni at 727-289-8054. Thanks to all who have already responded. Don't wait!

At the luncheon, past President Lt Col Larry Fernald, who graciously manages our data base and production of our monthly Officer Call asked every member to return the form for 2018 Chapter membership renewal very, very soon. A second mailing requesting membership will be very costly, since it will have to go first class mail.

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Please renew early and help us attain the 95% renewal rate needed to obtain a MOAA bonus of \$250.

Our guest speaker for our 16 NOV luncheon will be Lt Col Lichter, USAF, serving at U.S. Central Command who will continue his brief on worldwide Special Operations Command. Hopefully he can emphasize the AFRICOM theatre of operations as well as update us, at the unclassified level on the reduction of ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Thanks to all your Executive Advisory Board members who keep your Chapter going. Well done.

P.S. We're still looking for a Treasurer for 2018.

Chapter dues renewal: As of 23 Oct, 62% of our members have renewed. 75 members have not yet renewed. Please renew NOW to save mailing fees.

Chaplain's Corner

By SPA MOAA Assistant
Chaplain, Chaplain (CDR)
Glen Crabb, USN (Ret)

Oh, give thanks to the Lord! 1
Chronicles 16:8

According to a prominent Duke University Medical Center Researcher, "If thankfulness were a drug, it would be the world's best selling product with (health benefits) for every major organ system."

For some, being thankful means simply living with a sense of gratitude—taking time to recognize and focus on the things we have, instead of the things we wish we had. The Bible takes the idea of thankfulness to a deeper level. The act of giving thanks causes us to recognize the One who provides our blessings (James 1:17)

Today we we can truly be thankful by worshiping the Giver Instead of the gifts we enjoy. Focusing on the good things In our lives may benefit our bodies, but directing our thanks to God benefits our souls.



Officers Call



Marvin J. Harris 5 Star Award-2016
Website Harris 5 Star Award-2016

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• Editor – LTC Bill Eichholz, USA (Ret) 289-8054
 • 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

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

2016-2017 —

LTC Fran Chancey, USA (Ret) 251-9653
 LTC Pauline Mallory, USA (Ret) 329-8254
 Mrs. Chris Lillich, AuxMbr-A 546-2246

2017-2018 —

CDR Glen Crabb, USN (Ret) 561-0697
 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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising Vacant
 Auxiliary Liaison .Sherry Freese 360-3102
 Awards Maj Pete Dawson 894-3761
 Bylaws/Policy Bk Col Bill Lofgren 742-0181
 Chaplain: COL George Brown 866-6859
 Asst Chaplain CDR Glen Crabb 561-0697
 Database Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237
 Help Our Troops .LTC Fran Chancey 251-9653
 Honor Guard MAJ Ed Lillich 546-2246
 Historian: CDR Maureen Connors 954-0482
 Hospitality CDR Glen Crabb 561-0697
 JROTC MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 Law: David Peek 362-1420
 Legislative: MAJ Ed Lillich 546-2246
 Master at Arms ... MAJ Tom Shoupe 404-403-1845
 Membership Mrs. Pauline Edwards 360-2936
 Newsletter LTC Bill Eichholz 289-8054
 Parliamentarian ... Col Bill Lofgren 742-0181
 Personal Affairs ... Mrs Violet Smith 595-5543
 Programs CAPT Pete Gunderson 404-304-3313
 Publicity: Mrs. Pauline Edwards 360-2936
 Reservations Mrs. Pauline Edwards 360-2936
 Scholarships: Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237
 TOPS COL Roger Popham 498-6860
 VA Vol Svc LTC Fran Chancey 251-9653
 Vet Liaison MAJ Ed Lillich 546-2246
 Visitation Mrs. Virginia Balke 544-3598
 LTC Bill Eichholz 289-8054
 Webmanager Lt Col Larry Fernald 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

November 17th, Friday. Speaker: Lt Col Lichter, CENTCOM, Part II

December 15th, Friday: Speaker: Ms. Jodi Morelli, Dali Museum; Toys for Tots

**** 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.

November 6th Monday

December 4th Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

MOWC will meet on Tuesday, 14 November 2017 for a fashion show by the Sign of the Dolphin at Pasadena Yacht and Country Club (PYC) at 6300 Pasadena Point Blvd, Gulf port, FL. RSVP Pauline Edwards at 727-360-2936

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 - 195

Regular Members - 133

Auxiliary Members - 62

Military Services:

Army - 64

USMC - 7

USAF - 30

USCG - 7

Navy - 25

NOAA - 0

10/23/2017

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To subscribe to the electronic version of *Officers Call*, and save valuable funds for your Chapter, call me at 727-522-6237.



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



Executive Committee Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;
2 October 2017

Reported by Ginni Eichholz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz. Bill gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Lofgren motioned that the Secretary's minutes for the September meeting be approved as published. Seconded by Pauline Mallory. Minutes were approved as published. Treasurer Pete Dawson presented the financial report and Ed Lillich motioned to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Evie Hamilton. The Treasurer's report was approved subject to audit. Bill thanked Larry Fernald for getting dues renewal letters out early as well as Larry's continued publication of our Officer Call. Bill Lofgren reported that nominations for the 2018-2019 slate of officers will appear in the November OC. After a break for lunch the meeting was adjourned.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2017.



2018 Proposed Slate of Officers

Following is the slate of officers and Executive Advisory Board (EAB) members for the 2018 calendar year. At the membership meeting on November 16th, the floor will be open for additional nominations. Nominees from the floor must have indicated their willingness to be nominated to the office for which they are being nominated by so stating at the time of their nomination, or by contacting President Eichholz prior to their name being placed in nomination. If evidence of willingness to serve is not available at the time of their nomination, they will not be placed on the ballot. This is the only time nominations can be accepted from the floor and will not be accepted during the General Election in December. Following the November meeting, if there are any nominations from the floor, a slate of candidates will be drawn up and published in the December *Officers Call* with an address for the membership to mail their ballot to arrive NLT 8 DEC; or, they may bring their ballot to the December 15th meeting if desired.

2018 Slate of Officers and 2018-19 Slate of EAB members: (Board Members for 2017-18 were elected last year and will not re-appear on this year's ballot).

President: LTC William R. Eichholz, USA (Ret) **1st VP:** CAPT Peter Gunderson, USNR, (Ret) **2nd VP:** LTC Pauline Mallory, USA (Ret); **Secretary:** Mrs. Ginni Eichholz, AuxMbr-A; **Treasurer:** TBD (We need a volunteer for this position) Executive Advisory Board (Term Expires 31 December 2019) Mrs. Katie Crabb, AuxMbr-N; Lt Col Laurance N. Fernald, USAF, (Ret); and Mrs. Evelyn M. Hamilton, AuxMbr-A.

Luncheon Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;
20 October 2017

Reported by Ginni Eichholz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz. The invocation was given by CAPT (Chaplin), USN Stan Beach. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the chapter President. Bill introduced guest and potential member, Col, USAF (Ret), Mike Henchey. Also recognized were the chapter's newest members Dieter and Barbra Weber.

Bill Eichholz again reminded everyone of our upcoming Chapter fund raiser, Oktoberfest which will be held 4 November at 7911 Sailboat Key Blvd., Harbourside Clubhouse, n South Pasadena. We will have German food, drinks (Beer, Wine, and soft drinks) as well as Oktoberfest music (live accordion) and door prizes. A \$50.00 donation per person is tax deductible. RSVP to Ginni Eichholz, ASAP by calling (727) 289-8054. Checks are made payable to SPA-MOAA and mailed to Ginni Eichholz, 8136 Willow Court, Seminole, FL 33776.

The door prize winner was Jo Ann Burch and the 50/50 winners were Kathy Gunderson and Pauline Mallory. Sherry Freese displayed the MOAA quilt made by Pauline Mallory which will be raffled off to raise funds to support our Chapter with its fund commitments. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Call Sherry Freese or Pauline Mallory for further information. Also, Bill Eichholz announced that the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Convention hosted by the Lee Coast Chapter at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort and Spa in Fort Myers will be held 1-3 June 2018.

After a break for lunch Pete Gunderson introduced our guest speaker, Pinellas County Chief Deputy to Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Sean Jowell who has been with the Sheriff's Department since 1989. Of the many topics covered by Chief Deputy Jowell, most interesting was the department efforts in combatting the Opioid crisis and lifesaving medical antidotes now carried by deputy sheriffs to administer on site to overdose victims. He also reiterated that car theft and car break-ins by juveniles remain high due to the fact that people simply do not lock their vehicles and leave their keys in the car. Unfortunately, many unlocked vehicles burglarized had fire arms stolen from them! Sean was presented with a set of MOAA glasses by 1st VP Pete Gunderson and President Bill Eichholz presented him a copy of the book "The Bridges of Vietnam" written by past Chapter President Fred Edwards. Our 2nd VP, Pauline Edwards generously contributed the copy of her husband's book.

Our next Chapter luncheon is 17 November at the Pasadena Yacht Club & Country. Guest Speaker for November is Lt Col Chris Lichter, USAF, USCENTCOM, who will give us additional information on the organization and missions of CENTCOM and its specific Areas of Responsibility, hopefully with an emphasis on AFRICOM. Stan Beach gave the benediction and the meeting was closed by Bill Eichholz.



Legislative Update

From MOAA and other sources

MATTIS WEIGHS IN ON NDAA

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis outlined DoD's positions and made clear his concerns and key objections regarding the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in letters submitted to the leadership of the House and Senate Armed Services committees.

The committees are currently in conference, working to reconcile the two different versions of the defense authorization bill that passed their respective chambers, so a final version can be passed by both houses of Congress and sent to President Donald Trump for his signature.

As it stands now, the House - which passed its version in July - is recommending \$621.5 billion in the base budget and \$75 billion to fund Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The Senate passed its version last month and proposes \$640 billion in the base budget and \$60 billion in OCO funding.

Mattis' letter was up-front with his concerns about spending caps mandated under the Budget Control Act (BCA), reiterating his much-quoted sentiment, "No enemy in the field has done more to harm the warfighting readiness of our military than sequestration." The current caps, he went on to write, "unnecessarily defer critical maintenance, limit aviation ability, delay modernization, and strain our men and women in uniform." MOAA could not agree more.

Mattis also stated his support for an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round as a significant opportunity to find savings through the reduction of excess capacity-almost \$2 billion annually, by the Pentagon's calculations.

Regarding military health care, Mattis stated his opposition to the language currently in NDAA legislation regarding military health system reform, "in order to allow time to implement reforms required by previous NDAA's."

Mattis' letter did indicate his support for the inclusion of "reasonable" pharmacy copayments and the removal of grandfathering provisions on certain fees, looking to gain a projected \$6 billion in savings over the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) - a position MOAA is clearly at odds with.

Congressional defense leadership intend to have the conference negotiations completed by the end of October, in order to have a final version of the FY18 NDAA brought up for a vote before the Thanksgiving break.

Answers to Constitutional Quiz, Page 8:
1. d; 2. d; 3. b; 4. b; 5. b

Plan To Replace 'Choice' Also Will Modernize VA Health System

By: Tom Philpott



Congress, the VA, and veterans service organizations will begin to spar this month over the final details of a plan that not only will replace the much-maligned Veterans Choice program but empower the VA to modernize large parts of its health care system.

The plan, which the VA titled the Veterans CARE (Coordinated Access & Rewarding Experiences) Act, was unveiled last week and has an overall structure that major veteran groups applaud, in part because they helped shape it.

They don't like everything, however. And the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees are expected to offer their own replacement plans for Choice this fall, perhaps to include more statutory safeguards and details to improve access to care that veteran advocates worry aren't spelled out yet in the VA plan.

The idea behind Choice remains a primary goal for CARE: to ensure greater access to care for veterans in their communities when timely, quality care isn't available at a nearby VA medical facilities. But CARE directs that clinicians, consulting with patients, decide when outside care is needed, rejecting Choice's reliance on driving distance and wait times to set eligibility and hold down costs.

CARE also seeks authorities for the VA to build out high-performing provider networks, relying on private sector partners and other federal agencies, and to ensure closer integration of VA health services with those in nearby communities.

Before 2014, the VA health care system had various ways to access non-VA care. But too often referring patients to the private sector was a business decision, said Louis Celli, director of veterans' affairs and rehabilitation for The American Legion. Would referral make economic sense considering other options and a facility's budget?

When a patient wait-time scandal erupted across the VA medical system by spring that year, Congress hastily created Choice to expand access to private sector care. Initially the idea was to give every VA-enrolled veteran a card entitling them to use community care at VA expense when necessary. The projected cost turned out to be enormous, however, so lawmakers added last-minute cost controls.

No veteran could use Choice unless they lived more than 40 miles from a VA care facility or faced waits for VA appointments of more than 30 days. Meanwhile, responsibility for scheduling

(See Plan, Page 10)



St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA Presents:

Oktoberfest

(a chapter fundraising event)

Saturday, November 4th, 2017 Cocktails: 5:00PM Dinner: 6:30-10:00PM

Harbourside Clubhouse
7911 Sailboat Key Blvd
So. Pasadena, FL

German Food and Drinks
Beer, Wine, Potato Salad, Red Cabbage, Apple Strudel
Live Auction
Fun!!

Donation: \$50 per person
Reservations: Ginni Eichholz, 727-289-8054

The Clearwater MOAA Chapter and MOWW Clearwater Chapter are the proud co-sponsors of this annual tribute to all the many service personnel who lost their lives on December 7, 1941. Please come out and support this Remembrance Service.

Please join the Clearwater and St. Pete Chapters of MOAA & MOWW in Remembrance of PEARL HARBOR DAY, Dec. 7, 2017 at the Clearwater Country Club, 525 N Betty Lane, Clearwater. Phone: (727) 446-9501.

Check-in & Social Hour: 1115 HRS, Luncheon at 1200 HRS. Cash bar available.

Memorial Program will include Dunedin HS JROTC Honor Guard, FDR Day of Infamy Speech, and Speaker, Dr. Jack Tunstall, Dept. of History, USF. Reservations for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day will be accepted at our November 17th luncheon.

Name (s):

Your choice of:

____ Petit Filet, Caesar salad, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans/carrots, dessert

____ Grilled Citrus Salmon, Caesar salad, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans/carrots, dessert

COST: \$30 per person. Please mail check payable to **Clearwater Chapter MOAA** and meal selection to Jane Belson: 1824 Northwood Drive, Clearwater, FL, 33764 **NLT 12/1/2017**. Cancellations must be in **NLT 12/4/2017**.





Ellen and Stan Beach



Left: Assistant Chief Deputy, Sean Jowell, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office



Pete Gunderson, Assistant Chief Deputy Sean Jowell, and Bill Eichholz



Jo Ann Burch and Joanne Taylor



Stan Beach giving the Invocation



Ellen Marie Fine, Sherry Freese, and Ken Fine



Pete and Kathy Gunderson



Dave and Pauline Mallory



Potential Member, Mike Henchey



Martha and John Schoeppner



Evey Hamilton and 50-50 winner, Kathy Gunderson



John and Pat Stuchen

Photos by Bill Lofgren.

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



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>





Door Prize Winner, Jo Ann Burch and Pauline Edwards



New Members, Dieter and Barbara Weber



Ed and Chris Lillich



Pauline Edwards and Evey Hamilton



50-50 winner Pauline Mallory with Evey Hamilton



Sheila Mutascio and Carol Barkalow



Fran Shivers



George Stenehjem and Bob Reed



Barb and Larry Fernald



Jacquie D'Louhy, Dave and Carol Sjolund



Tony Quattromani and Tom Shoupe



A Short Constitutional Quiz

(From www.hillsdale.edu)

Answers on Page 4

1. Which of the following is not a First Amendment right?

- a Right to Free Speech
- b Right to Petition
- c Right to Assemble
- d Right to an Impartial Jury

2. Which branch of government has a duty to interpret the Constitution?

- a The Executive Branch
- b The Judicial Branch
- c The Legislative Branch
- d All of the above

3. Abraham Lincoln called the Constitution "a silver frame" around "an apple of gold." What was he referring to as the "apple of gold?"

- a The Articles of Confederation
- b The Declaration of Independence
- c The Federalist Papers

4. Woodrow Wilson, America's 28th president, rejected the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution's system of the separation of powers. This philosophy is known as:

- a Anti-Constitutionalism
- b Progressivism
- c Anti-Federalism

5. Fill in the blank: The Constitution begins: We the People of the United States, in Order to form a _____,

_____ establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

- a new nation
- b more perfect union
- c stronger coalition of states

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Financial Report Summary for the Month of September 2017

Operating Income

..... Luncheon Income	\$ 408.00
..... Dues	\$ 405.00
..... 50/50	\$ 19.00
..... Miscellaneous Income	\$ 86.00
..... Interest Earned	\$.53
..... Total Income	\$ 918.53

Operating Expenses

..... Luncheon Expense	\$ 400.02
..... Supplies	\$
..... Honoraria/Donations	\$
..... Post Office	\$
..... Printing	\$ 119.28
..... Other Organizations	\$
..... Memorials SF	\$
..... VA/JROTC	\$
..... Misc Expenses	\$
Total Expenses	\$ 519.30
..... Operations Cash Flow	\$ 399.23

Operating Fund Summary

..... Starting balance	\$ 1,788.94
..... Cash Flow	\$ 399.23
..... Ending Balance	\$ 2,188.17

Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 1,190.00
..... Donations and 50/50	\$ 5.00
..... Memorials	\$
..... Expended	\$
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 1,195.00

HOT/HOEV Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month (Rev'd) ..	\$ 5,257.82
..... Donations	\$ 25.00
..... Expenses	\$ (2,424.00)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 2,858.82

Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month (Rev) ...	\$ 1,026.38
..... Donations	\$ 220.00
..... Ad Income	\$
..... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$ (308.18)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 938.20

To make a reservation for **Oktoberfest**, please contact Ginni Eichholz at 727-289-8054



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
Mallory, Pauline LTC
Milford, John Lt Col
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Newton, Dick Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Popham, Roger COL
Sjolund, Carol Mrs.
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Talbitzer, John LT
Terwilliger, Bill MAJ

••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL
Bolin, Bill CDR

Christie, Bob LtCol
Dawson, Pete Maj
Finley, Paul LCDR
McCormick, Jim Lt Col
Sims, Bob Maj
Warren, David LTC

••BRONZE –

Anderson, Eric LCDR
Bolin, Bill CDR
Crabb, Glen CDR
D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.
Edwards, Richard CAPT
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Freese, Marc LtCol
Gioe', Shirley Mrs.
Gunderson, Kathy Mrs.
Holecek, John LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lake, Charles CPT
Quattromani, Tony LTC
Roberson, Hal Col
Spears, Laurie Mrs.
Terry, Maxine Mrs.
Tondreau, Tunney CWO4

Member donations ONLY:
\$2,923 as of 10/23/2017

2017 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors**Gold** (\$50 & more); **Silver** (\$25-49); **Bronze** (\$1-24)**••GOLD –**

Dawson, Pete Maj
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Fine, Ellen Mrs.
Fine, Ken MAJ
Freese, Sherry Mrs.
Gunderson, Pete CAPT
Hamilton, Evey Mrs.
Havana Nights
Lofgren, Bill Col
Mallory, Pauline LTC
MOAA Recruiting Bonus
Munchbach, Rose LTC
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:
\$3,475.00 as of 10/23/2017

Popham, Roger COL
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Warren, David LTC

••SILVER –

Christie, Bob LtCol
Eichholz, Bill LTC
Lake, Charles CPT
Quattromani, Tony LTC

••BRONZE –

Anderson, Eric LCDR
Edwards, Richard CAPT
Gunderson, Kathy Mrs.
Holecek, John LTC
Lanier, Laurie Maj
Lillich, Chris Mrs.

November Birthdays**(69 to 95 years)**

<u>Day</u>	<u>L Name</u>	<u>F Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>SVC</u>
26	Alvarez	Jeanne	Mrs.	AuxMbr-MC
30	Barnes	Van	1LT	USA (Fmr)
22	Blatt	Donald	LTC	USA (Ret)
21	Dusincki	Richard	LTC	USA (Ret)
01	Hansen	George	CPT	USA (Fmr)
17	Holmes	Leland	LTC	USA (Ret)
28	Jones	Ethel	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
09	King	Monroe	CAPT	USN (Ret)
10	Love	Bruce	CW3	USA (Ret)
03	Maratos	Stanley	Col	USAF (Ret)
19	McConnell	Lawrence	CAPT	USN (Ret)
10	Myers	Asa	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
21	Sears	Claire	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
13	Vaughn	Sidney	RADM	USCG (Ret)

**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.
Gunderson, Pete CAPT
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.
Shoupe, Tom MAJ
Sims, Bob Maj

Sjolund, Carol Mrs.
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Spears, Laurie Mrs.
Summers, Stormy Col
Talbitzer, John LT

••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL
Hansen, Gidge CPT
Lake, Charles CPT
Myers, Asa Mrs.
Quattromani, Tony LTC
Terry, Maxine Mrs.
Tondreau, Tunney CWO4

••BRONZE –

D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.
Anderson, Eric LCDR
Edwards, Richard CAPT
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Freese, Marc LtCol
Holecek, John LTC
Vaughn, Sid RADM
Vecchio, Joe MAJ
White, Jim COL

Member donations ONLY:
\$2,230 as of 10/23/2017

For the December Luncheon, bring your toys for **Toys for Tots**



(Plan, from Page 4)

appointments, transfer of medical records, and payment of fees relied heavily on third-party contactors, which caused delays and complaints.

In time, to ease the complaints, the VA regained control of Choice appointments, records transfer, and fee payments, and the role for contractors shifted to building out networks of care providers to support a steady rise in community care referrals.

Choice was meant as a temporary solution to the wait-time scandal and is funded through December. But community care grew from 20 percent to more than 30 percent of veterans' health care in the last three years. CARE would consolidate non-VA care programs but still spend \$4 billion on private sector health care.

At one time, veterans service organizations saw Choice as a threat, a tool that critics of big government could use to dismantle VA care by sending more and more patients to the private sector.

"There are some in Congress who want unfettered Choice," said Garry Augustine, executive director of Disabled American Veterans (DAV). "Give everybody a card and let them go wherever they want. We're against that and believe it would lead to a dismantling of the VA system as needed resources are drained away and VA [health care] withers on the vine."

But CARE is seen as striking the right balance, with initiatives to strengthen VA health care with more VA providers, improved support systems, and streamlined processes, but with a commitment to build high-performing and integrated provider networks by partnering with the private sector or at other federal agencies.

Major vet groups do have concerns they want addressed - if not by the VA, then by Congress. Celli noted, for example, that while clinicians are to decide with patients when to use private sector care, CARE also would allow veterans using a VA medical center that performs poorly to elect community care instead.

"We understand and support the intent of the provision ... to ensure veterans get the highest quality care available, whether inside or outside VA," Celli said. "What we cannot support [is] a provision that allows VA to siphon patients away from a medical center that is underperforming. We want to see a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate any poorly performing VAMC [VA medical center]. You can't just abdicate leadership responsibility by taking patients away, which will cause less traffic into the VAMC less utilization, more evidence the VAMC can be defunded."

Veterans groups also oppose a provision in the plan that would have veterans, including those with service-connected disabilities, pay a modest portion of program costs by rounding down monthly benefit checks to the nearest dollar.

"We have always been against that. We have a resolution

saying that we will not support any kind of situation where you are taking one benefit away to pay for another, which this is," said Augustine on behalf of DAV.

Though the COLA provision would expire in 10 years, Augustine said, "for my generation of Vietnam veterans, we are at that part of our lifecycle where 10 years mean we probably won't see it again. And anytime you have a 10-year suspension of something you usually don't see it come back."

On this point, the Legion also is adamant. By definition, rounding down costs a veteran no more than \$12 a year, but "it's not about the money," Celli said. "As Americans, if we choose to use that money, especially for veterans' health care, what we're saying is that it is now all right to ask service-disabled veterans to give up a portion of their check each month to pay for their own health care or for somebody else's services."

A feature of CARE getting mixed reviews, for lack of detail, would allow access commercial walk-in clinics for minor illnesses or injuries. VA Secretary David Shulkin previously said the VA would charge a \$50 copayment and the first few visits a year would be free. Those details aren't in the plan now. Nor is there word on whether service-connected disabled veterans would face a full copayment or any added cost.

CARE would have the VA adopt prompt payment standards common in the health industry: doctor reimbursement within 45 days of receiving of a "clean" paper claim and 30 days for an electronic claim. Augustine said DAV wants to ensure private sector care providers also are barred from billing veterans if the VA doesn't pay on time, a practice that has marred Choice for many users.

Veterans also should have private sector appointments in hand when they leave VA clinicians after a determination that community care is necessary. How the VA will ensure that is another detail not yet clear, Augustine said.

Some groups, including the American Federation of Government Employees, oppose CARE, saying the ultimate goal is to dismantle the VA health system and to privatize all medical care for veterans. Major veterans groups support the reforms but vow to challenge every line that might weaken the VA's ability to deliver care.

"It's big-picture advocacy and not a myopic view," Celli said of the Legion's support. "The Department of Veterans Affairs has a \$165 billion budget; that's not going away anytime soon. If a new secretary were to come and try to change a stable-based VA, we would advocate against [that], and the American people would either support us or wouldn't. We have to have faith and trust in the Department until they prove to us they no longer have earned that trust."





TAPS

Colonel William C. Binzer, USAF (Ret), 22 September 2017



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November Speaker: Lt Col Christian "Pancho" Lichtner, USAF, Chief, Joint Reconnaissance Center, CENTCOM

Lieutenant Colonel Lichter is the Chief, Joint Reconnaissance Center, CENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL. Lt Col Lichter grew up in Auburn, Maine and is a 1993 graduate of Acadia University, Nova Scotia, Canada. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1994, serving as an F-15E avionics technician at Mountain Home AFB, ID and was commissioned through OTS in 1997. His various positions include: 27th Expeditionary Special Operations Group Commander Special Operations Command-Africa, Joint Special Operations Air Component Commander Special Operations Command-South, Joint Special Operations Air Component-Africa Director of Operations, first Mission Commander for Joint Special Operations Detachment-Singapore, Assistant Director of Operations 524th Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, NM, and 43rd Airlift Wing executive officer, as well as chief of flight safety in a data masked unit. Lt Col Lichter is a command evaluator pilot with over 4,700 hours having conducted special operations world-wide in the C-146A, BE-200, C-208B (including an armed variant), Casa 235 and the MC-130H Combat Talon II. Lt Col Lichter separated from the Air Force for over three years where he continued to fly special missions as a contract pilot for Grey Aviation LLC, performing ISR missions in the Philippines as well as ISR flight instruction for the Lebanese and Iraqi Air Forces. He has participated in Operations JUNIPER SHIELD, OCTAVE SHIELD, OBSERVANT COMPASS, IRAQI FREEDOM as well as ENDURING FREEDOM-AFGHANISTAN/TRANS SAHARA/PHILIPPINES.



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