

OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 7054 St. Petersburg, FL 33734



VOL IV No X **★★★★★ Five Star Chapter - 2002-05 ★★★★★** **October 2006**
2nd Runner-Up 2005 Electronic Media; **Winner** 2003 Print & Electronic Media & Web Site

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret), President

October through January is MOAA membership renewal time for both your Chapter and national MOAA.

As you know MOAA is the nation's fourth largest veterans organization after the American Legion, VFW and the DAV with 44 chapters and over 33,000 members in Florida and over 370,000 nationwide in 419 chapters. Our Chapter, together with national and the 418 other chapters are "One Powerful Voice" lobbying in behalf of active duty, guard and reserve service members, their spouses and family and their survivors regardless of rank.

Because we are "One Powerful Voice" membership in the national association is also required for our Chapter's members. So you will soon be getting two bills for 2007 dues, one from your chapter and one from national MOAA.

Many years ago I purchased a Life Membership in the USAir Club. I was traveling recently and discovered that I had left my USAir Club card at home. I asked the receptionist to look me up on her computer? She did and said, "Yes sir, you are good to go as long as you are good to go!" My response "Hope that is longer than USAir," as they were in bankruptcy at the time.

You may want to consider a life membership in national (our chapter does not have life memberships.) Your life membership in MOAA will guarantee you that you won't unintentionally lapse in your membership. And a comforting, mostly overlooked benefit is that a surviving spouse of a life member automatically will become a life national auxiliary member. So MOAA will be "good to go as long as you and your spouse are!"

As an incentive for you to join for Life, national MOAA will rebate \$20 for life membership to our chapter. We will be happy to return the rebate to you or make a gift to the chapter's MOAA scholarship fund in your behalf.

Dues, national MOAA Annual are \$24.00 per year, \$19.00 Auxiliary.



PROGRAM OCTOBER 20

VP/Central Mgr USSA SE Region
Lee Ann Ned,

Do you know how to get the best value from your USAA membership? It's all at your fingertips. Lee Ann Ned, vice president and general manager of USAA's Tampa office, will be the guest speaker at the October meeting. She will talk about how you can manage all your USAA business online - and tell about ways it will save you money and time.



Lee Ann Ned is Vice President and General Manager of USAA's Southeast Regional Office in Tampa. She provides leadership to the 1,600 employees at this location and is the local representative of the USAA Chairman and CEO.

Lee Ann joined USAA in 1978 as a sales representative in San Antonio. As her career progressed, she held positions in training, staff underwriting and region management. She has served USAA's Property and Casualty Insurance Group in many management positions across the country during her 26+ years with the company. In November of 2003, she was reassigned as Vice President and General Manager of the Tampa Office. Lee Ann and her husband Brandon have two children, Allison and Danny.

Her education includes earning a master's degree in Business Administration from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas and a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. She is also a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter.

Lee Ann is active in the community and serves on the board of directors for the University of Tampa, the United Way of Tampa Bay and the Museum of Science & Industry.

Life Member Rates

(Can be paid over 10 months, 1/10 per month.)

| Age | Rate |
|--------|-------|
| 00-45 | \$435 |
| 46-50 | \$425 |
| 51-55 | \$400 |
| 56-60 | \$375 |
| 61-65 | \$350 |
| 66-70 | \$320 |
| 71-75 | \$270 |
| 76-80 | \$225 |
| 81-85 | \$175 |
| 86-90 | \$125 |
| 91-95 | \$85 |
| 96-100 | \$50 |
| 101+ | \$0 |

**Business meeting: TUESDAY,
 3 October at USCG station
 next to Albert Whitted Airport**



Officers Call

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- Layout Editor– Col Al Neville, USAF 522-5685
- Reporter/Photos– CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
- Consultant/Proofing– Johnnie Neville 522-5685

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- Visitation LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN 545-3884

AND Life Members Emeritus AND Past Presidents

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 339
 Regular Members - 241
 Auxillary Members - 98

Military Services:

Army - 88 USMC - 13
 USAF - 79 USCG - 8
 Navy - 53

From the Editor

COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

• **Politics** – As the national election date approaches, there seems to be more friction between Republicans and Democrats. Political cartoons and statements are floating on the internet. The Editor has been cautious to not allow partisan political ads, cartoons or articles to appear in *Officers Call*. If as members of MOAA, one of our primary efforts continues to be the preservation and improvements to our earned entitlements, we must work with both Republicans and Democrats – without a show of partisanship.



• **The H.O.T. Project** – Over 120 boxes have been shipped to our “adopted” unit in Afghanistan. Our chapter members and friends have enabled our success by their generous contributions of money, holiday note cards and edible goodies and clothing items such as boot socks. a major frustration is the return of thirteen boxes from Afghanistan thus far – usually due to the rotation of troops back to the USA. The outgoing commanding officer has recently sent a current list of name and address changes. Carolyn has received “thank you” notes and photos from some of the troops which has had a very positive affect on our morale. letter.

• **ROWC** – Our chapter members are invited to attend the October luncheon of the Retired Officers Wives Club to be held at the Wine Cellar, 17307 Gulf Blvd, N Redington Beach on 10 October. The featured speaker is Captain “Bud” Schneeweis, USCG (Ret) from National MOAA. He will speak on Benefits and Information and he will no doubt separate the facts from the rumors. Please plan to attend. Make reservations with LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146 or Martha Willis at 579-4116.

• **Recruiting** – Active duty military members may join MOAA at no cost to them for the first year! Please help our chapter by recruiting just one member each!

Annual Membership Renewal

President Don Freese will send the annual dues renewal request to all members early in October. Included for your convenience is a return addressed envelope for you to return your dues, perhaps a donation and any corrections to your database information.

Questions: Col Al Neville, 522-5685

<2ndVP@-MOAAStPeteArea.com

A Brief History of the U. S. Navy

by Captain T. L. Harrow USN(Ret)

Our Navy was born during the Revolutionary War when a group of “Sons of Liberty” led by Jeremiah O’Brian seized a royal survey vessel, the *Margaretta*. It was then that George Washington launched his own naval offensive by capturing British supply ships in order to supply his own army and starve the enemy. The *Hannah* was the first ship commissioned by Washington on September 2, 1775 that sailed under the authority of the Continental Congress. Then in October, Congress agreed to the formation of a Continental Navy. It was at that time that John Adams wrote, “Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies”. Some of those rules still stand today.

It wasn’t until 1797 that the first ships were built for the United States. The USS Constitution was one of those ships and today it is still a commissioned ship located at its home port, Boston, where it was launched.

The Navy grew with the country. It is interesting to note that Congress in 1861, allowed officers to retire after forty years of duty and required them to do so after forty-five years or on attaining the age of sixty-two.

Then there was the Civil War. Twice as many Americans died in the Civil War as in World War II, which was the nation’s second bloodiest war. It was during the Civil War that the use of metal and submarines came into use. The most famous submarine at that time was the H.L.Hunley named after the inventor.

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, the U.S. Navy’s 700 ships and 58,000 battle-tested personnel placed it among the largest and best in the world. However, after the Civil War in 1870 the defense policy reduced the Navy to only fifty-two commissioned ships and 8,500 personnel. In 1885 the Naval War College opened at Newport, Rhode Island. It was the world’s first institution of learning for senior officers. The rebuilding of the Navy began with the building of the ABCD ships authorized by Congress in 1883. The cruisers USS Atlanta, USS Boston, and USS Chicago, and the dispatch vessel USS Dolphin were built entirely of steel, had watertight compartments, and were outfitted with electricity.

World War I, the war to end all wars, began in 1914 between England and Germany, with America determined to remain neutral. It was then that President Wilson sent out the call for the United States to have “a Navy second to none”. In March 1917 Congress authorized the enlistment of women in the Navy to perform clerical duties of the yeoman rate, and by the end of the war, 11,275 women served. Congress declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. The Navy organized for the war by forming the Cruiser and Transport Service in order to ferry troops and supplies to Europe. By war’s end it had carried almost a million men to France without the loss of a single life to enemy action. Naval aviation grew at this time with as much as 500 planes and 16,000 men stationed at twenty-six naval air stations. When the Armistice ending World War I took effect on 11 November 1918, the Navy was only beginning to reach its potential. By 1922 the United States Navy was “Second to None”.

It was in the years between the World War I and World War



USS Langley, CV1, w/ a 'four stack' WWI destroyer
(The Langley was sunk in SEA early in WWII)



USS S-1, surface trials 4/15/1920, off Provincetown, Mass

II that the Navy grew with development of aircraft carriers, the USS Langley (CV1) was the first. The submarine force grew with development of diesel engines and different classes or types of submarines. The surface ships were also being built larger and with more fire power. The USS Enterprise (CV 6) and her sister ship the USS Yorktown (CV 5) were the first truly satisfactory aircraft carriers built for the Navy with speeds up to 34 knots and space for eighty planes. Training and education also began in earnest as the basic training (boot camp) which lasted for twelve weeks was started. Officers who had strong academic credentials and at least seven years in the Navy returned to the Naval Academy to attend postgraduate school.

By 1941 the Navy had developed all the elements necessary for victory in World War II such as a generation of officers capable of planning and directing the operations of a huge fleet. In addition, a more efficient shipbuilding industry, carrier aviation, modern ships, from submarines to oceangoing tugs, radar and sonar and effective training and educational institutions all added to the success of the Navy.

Continued page 6, "Navy History"



Luncheon Meeting

15 September 2006

Reported by **Don Freese**

Attended—42: Members—20, AuxMbrs—8; Wives—8, Guests—3, Walk-ins—3, No shows—(1), Cancellations—(1)

For more than 100 years, Goodwill has witnessed the Power of Work in peoples' lives.

Goodwill was founded in 1902 in Boston by Rev. Edgar J. Helms, a Methodist minister and early social innovator. Helms collected used household goods and clothing in wealthier areas of the city, then trained and hired those who were poor to mend and repair the used goods. The goods were then resold



or were given to the people who repaired them. The system worked, and the **Goodwill philosophy of “a hand up, not a hand out”** was born.

Dr. Helms' vision set an early course for what today has become a \$2.4 billion nonprofit organization. Helms described Goodwill Industries as an “industrial program as well as a social service enterprise...a provider of employment, training and rehabilitation for people of limited employability, and a

source of temporary assistance for individuals whose resources were depleted.”

Even with a laudable history and record of accomplishment, Goodwill won't be satisfied when so many people still need their services. Through their 21st Century Initiative, they aim to improve the economic self-sufficiency of 20 million people and their families by 2020. Times have changed, but Helms' vision remains constant. “We have courage and are unafraid. With the prayerful cooperation of millions of our bag contributors and of our workers, we will press on till the curse of poverty and exploitation is banished from mankind.”

You can help by donations of money or dropping off your unused clothing and household items at any of the Goodwill collection sites around the area or shopping at the Goodwill Retail Store located at 10596 GANDY BLVD N, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33702, (727) 523-7354, www.goodwill-suncoast.org.

In keeping with their philosophy of “a hand up, not a hand out” all workers you encounter are paid employees but you can still contribute your time to share your expertise and help make a difference.



HOT Raffle

Pauline Edwards & President Don

Jinnie Kerdi & Larry Fernald



2006 Scholarship Fund
\$1055 – Through – 24 September 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
 Balke, Dale, COL USA
 Cormier, Emery, Maj USAF
 Dawson, Pete, Maj USAF
 Eynaten, Bob, CAPT USN
 Freese, Don, CAPT USNR

Green, Richard, CWO, USA
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
 Lorence, Marie, LTC USA
 Neville, Al, Col USAF
 Peck, Earl, Maj Gen USAF



John & Jean Jessup

Betty & Paul Finley



D Kay Benson

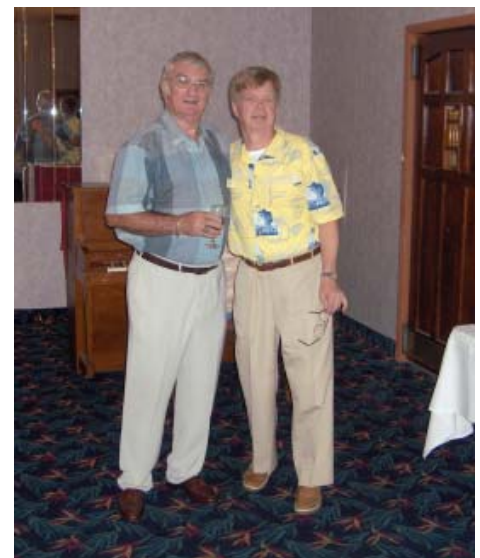


Pauline Edwards & Ron Wildes

Ron Merritt & Hank Curran



Pete Dawson & Fred Edwards



THE BUZZ

COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

• **Kudos** – To Fred Edwards who organized and directed and Jim Donovan, Master of Ceremonies, of a very professional and moving ceremony in South Pasadena in honor of the victims of terror on September 11, 2001. For all of our members, we thank you Fred.

• **Luncheon “Lottery”**- If you plan to buy tickets, please have the correct change. It’s difficult for our “vendors” to produce change. Thanks.

• **Reader Input** – Since your editor sometimes runs out of “airspeed, altitude and ideas”, we welcome your suggestions for the content of your newsletter. Some of our members have been reluctant to share their experiences in WW II, Korea and other garden spots in this world. When it’s time that we

must depart this world, we shouldn’t take our stories with us, well, most of them.

• **ROWC** – Our chapter members are invited to attend the October luncheon of the Retired Officers Wives Club to be held at the Wine Cellar, 17307 Gulf Blvd, N Redington Beach on 10 October. The featured speaker is Captain “Bud” Schneeweis, USCG (Ret) from National MOAA. He will speak on Benefits and Information and he will no doubt separate the facts from the rumors. Please plan to attend. Make reservations with LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146 or Martha Willis at 579-4116.

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"Navy History," from page 3

World War II started and ended with heroic actions in many battles in the Pacific as well as the Atlantic oceans. The Navy exploded in size to embrace some thirty-six hundred named ships, more than a hundred thousand unnamed craft, and more than three million men and women in uniform. The Navy was there to battle and to transport soldiers and sailors to places all over the world. After World War II ended the Cold War and then the Korean Conflict started. One of the most important developments in the Navy at this time was the use of nuclear power in the first naval submarine, the USS Nautilus. Admiral H. Rickover, the "father of nuclear propulsion", was the important figure in the development of America's Cold War submarine fleet.

More wars and battles have occurred since the Cold War and the Navy has always been there. Crisis in the Mediterranean and the Far East, the Cuban Missile crisis, Vietnam, war in the Persian Gulf and now the Global War on Terrorism have all placed the Navy in the forefront. The Navy has developed into a most powerful force over the years. The strength of the Navy, as well as all the armed services, is the men and women that man the ships, fight the battles on land and in the air and of course the support that they receive from the people of our great nation.

Captain John Paul Jones (1779) said: *Sign on, young man, and sail with me. The stature of our homeland is no more than the measure of ourselves. Our will is to keep the torch of freedom burning for all. To this solemn purpose we call on the young, the brave, the strong and the free. Heed my call. Come to the sea. Come sail with me.*

This was written by Tom Harrow from notes taken from The Navy by the Naval Historical Foundation.



USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) Named after LT William Charles Fitzgerald, USN a classmate of Don Freese killed in Vietnam and Awarded the Navy Cross on August 7, 1967 for ordering an artillery barrage on his position. He ordered his men to evacuate to the river. He provided covering fire for his men. He was fatally shot by the Viet Cong.



USS New York (LPD-21), a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, is the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the state of New York.

Shortly after 11 September 2001, Governor of New York George E. Pataki wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England requesting that the Navy bestow the name USS New York on a surface warship involved in the War on Terror in honor of September 11's victims. In his letter, the Governor said he understood state names presently are reserved for submarines but asked for special consideration so the name could be given to a surface ship. The request was approved 28 August 2002.

Twenty-four (24) tons of the steel used in its construction came from the rubble of the World Trade Center, with seven tons melted down and cast to form the ship's "stem bar," part of the ship's bow. The construction workers reportedly treat it with "reverence usually accorded to religious relics," touching it as they walk by.

On 9 September 2004, the Secretary of the Navy announced that two of her sister ships will be named Arlington and Somerset, also to commemorate the attacks.

The contract to build New York was awarded to Northrop Grumman Ship Systems of New Orleans, Louisiana in 2003.

The ship also survived Hurricane Katrina.

This article contains information from the Naval Vessel Registry and various other US Navy Web sites.

2006 Officers Call BOOSTER \$310 – Through — 24 September 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
Balke, Dale, COL USA
Brown, George, COL USA
Cormier, Emery Maj USAF
Dawson, Pete, Maj USAF
Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN
Green, Richard, CWO, USA
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA

Harrow, Tom, CAPT USN
Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
Lorence, Marie, LTC USA
Middlemas, John, MAJ USA
Neville, Al, Col USAF
Pack, Earl, Maj Gen USAF
Shields, Roger, COL USA
Smith, Violet, Mrs. AuxMbr-A

Executive Committee Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;

11 September 2006

Reported by **Larry Fernald**

The meeting was called to order by CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret), at 1130. CAPT Freese introduced Mr. Hank Curran, a former USN Officer and a prospective new member for the Chapter.

COL George Brown, USA (Ret), then led us in the invocation.

CAPT Freese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the 7 August EC meeting were approved as written.

The Treasurers Report was approved.

CAPT Freese called for committee and officer reports.

- **Nominating Committee:** CAPT Tom Harrow, USNR (Ret), reported that EC Board positions were filled with the acceptances of Col Bill Eisenhart, USAF (Ret), COL H. B. Love, USA (Ret), and Col Sam Palmer, USAF (Ret). Additionally, Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret), and Bob Eynatten, CAPT, USN (Ret) agreed to remain for the remainder of their elected terms. The slate of Chapter officers for the 2007 year is as follows: President, CAPT Freese; 1st VP, Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret); 2nd VP, LTC Janice Mogan, USA; Secretary, VACANT; and Treasurer, Maj Dawson.

- **Awards Committee:** Maj Gen Peck, USAF (Ret), reported that his committee had held two meetings since the last EC meeting. Additionally, Gen Peck reported that the Committee was indebted to LTC Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret), "...who did the exhaustive research of past Chapter directories to establish the credentials of those meriting consideration and meeting the administrative requirements set forth in the Policy Book." Gen Peck further reported that "there were a number of candidates whose contributions and service warranted serious consideration for the Distinguished Member award." Given the limitations of the Policy Book (no more than two Distinguished Members per year), the committee recommended that the award be presented to Col Albert R. Neville, USAF (Ret), and Mrs. Violet M. Smith, Auxiliary Member. There were no nominees for the Life Member Emeritus Award and the Chapter award for Exceptionally Distinguished Service.

- **Presidents Report:** There is a SE Region Symposium for MOAA in Savannah 28-30 Sept. CAPT Freese and Lt Col Fernald will be attending representing the St. Petersburg Area Chapter. Mrs. Violet Smith will be attending representing National MOAA. The "Give Me 10" program is progressing. We have three new MOAA members and quite a few Chapter members who are not MOAA national members. CAPT Freese will send letters to all those folks asking them to join the national organization. CAPT Freese reminded us that active duty military officers can join MOAA for a year free of charge. The After-Action Report on the 2006 Florida Council of Chapters Convention is published and available

on the Chapter website for those interested. CAPT Freese found a Chapter Workbook, which contains a lot of good information, but needs updating. Anyone interested in doing that may contact CAPT Freese.

- **1st VP Report:** Lt Col Fernald reported that he is looking for a speaker for the December luncheon.

- **2nd VP Report:** Col Neville is still recovering from surgery; therefore, CAPT Freese highlighted what he thought Col Neville might say—Support HOT, Boosters, and the Scholarship programs. Membership renewals are now in progress. Renew early....and often, if you wish.

- **Treasurers Report:** Approved, with minor corrections.

- **HOT Report:** Carolyn was at home packing boxes to ship, so COL Roger Shields, USA (Ret), reported that the committee and volunteers have sent over 120 boxes to date. 13 boxes were sent back due to personnel changes and rotations. However, new addresses were obtained and boxes are again in the pipeline. The committee is looking for Christmas cards of a non-religious nature to send to the troops, so that they, in turn, may send them back to friends and loved ones in the States.

- **Scholarship Report:** CAPT Harrow reported that Scholarship funds are very slow coming in. In an attempt to solicit funds, CAPT Harrow has a letter to be sent out via the MMC as well as placement on the website.

- **Auxiliary Members:** Mrs. Smith reported that she had a \$65.00 contribution for HOT from the Society of Military Widows. MOAA pins were still selling. Mrs. Smith reported that DOD, effective 1 October 2006, will no longer pay Tricare for Life Medicare beneficiary claims submitted for doctors who opt out of Medicare. An "opt out" provider is one who notifies Medicare and the patient that he or she is no longer accepting Medicare fees as payment for claims submitted to Medicare. Also, on a different vein, the surviving home owning spouse of a Florida service member disabled at least 10% by service connected misfortune is now entitled to a \$5,000 exemption for property taxes rates. For more information, please call 727-464-3294.

CAPT Freese then opened the forum to questions from the 13 attendees. There being no questions, the meeting was adjourned after COL Brown's invocation.

In Basil's absence, faithfully, if not accurately, submit: **Larry**



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MOAA Legislative Update

21 September 2006

Edited for brevity by Col Al Neville, USAF (Ret) Will Congress Bill Us?

House and Senate appropriations negotiators reached a deal on the FY2007 Defense Appropriations Bill and are planning its final passage next week. Things aren't moving quite as quickly for the FY2007 Defense Authorization Bill - which covers new legislative authorities for personnel, compensation and benefit issues.

Medicare/TRICARE Payment Haggles Drag On.

Congress is still talking about options to stop the 5.1% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors now scheduled for 2007. The question is what they're actually going to do about it and when.

VADM Ryan Talks Veterans' Issues.

On Thursday, VADM Norb Ryan Jr., USN (Ret.) urged the House Veterans Affairs Committee to "fully fund" the VA health care system to meet the needs of War on Terror veterans and others enrolled in VA care. Military and veterans organizations were invited to present their major priorities for 2007 at the hearings.

- Will Congress Bill Us? Last year, Congress didn't finish work on the FY2006 Defense Authorization Bill and FY2006 Defense Appropriations Bill until mid-December - almost three months into the fiscal year.

They're moving faster this year, as House and Senate leaders have reached an agreement on the FY2007 appropriations bill and hope to pass it next week - the first time in years it will have been finished before the October 1 start of the fiscal year.

Armed Services Committee leaders also still hope to have the FY2007 authorization bill - which is the legislative vehicle for personnel and compensation changes - ready for a final vote next week. But those negotiations still weren't finished as this column was being written.

Congress is looking to adjourn next Friday - September 29 - to let legislators get home and campaign for elections. Hill leaders already acknowledge that Congress will have to reconvene after the November election to finish up its work in a "lame duck" session. So the real question is how much they can get done - and what priorities they want to push - in the last congressional work week before the election.

MOAA's view is that a nation at war has an obligation to finish the Defense Authorization and Appropriations Bills.

Hopefully, Congress will get both of them done, and we'll be able to report next week what they decided on TRICARE fees, military pay, survivor benefits, concurrent receipt, and other pending issues. If not, we'll have a couple of more months to wait, as Congress won't return to work until the last half of November.

- Medicare/TRICARE Payment Haggles Drag On We'd been hoping that Congress would make it a priority to reverse the impending 5.1% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors now scheduled for January.

MOAA has joined with the American Medical Association at press conferences around the country to make the case that failing to reverse the cut will hurt military beneficiaries' access to care by making more doctors refuse to see Medicare

and TRICARE patients.

We're also concerned that a law change is needed to stop implementation of a \$1,740 annual cap on Medicare payments for outpatient physical, speech-language and occupational therapy for 2007.

House and Senate leaders continue to negotiate over various options to relieve these looming problems, and had hoped to get the issue resolved before going home next week. But it's now looking more like they'll kick this very important legislative can until after the election.

- VADM Ryan Talks Veterans' Issues The House Veterans Affairs Committee conducted two days of hearings this week, at which MOAA and other organizations presented priorities for next year.

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret) expressed appreciation for the Committee's effort to increase resources for the VA health care system, but said the VA continues to underestimate the demand for care by returning veterans. He urged the Committee to direct the VA to fix its model for estimating demand, budget to meet the VA's stated 30-day access standard for appointments, and heed the recommendations of the "Veterans Independent Budget," which historically has provided the most realistic cost estimates for VA system requirements.

Ryan also cited as priorities:

- Increasing funds allocated for Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD, spinal cord injury, VA polytrauma center renovation and construction, and medical research.
- Creating an interoperable VA-DoD medical record to "seamlessly transfer" medical data between the two departments.
- Adding disability claims workers and standardizing their training to reduce the hundreds of thousands of backlogged claims.
- Creating a "Total Force Montgomery GI Bill" that better synchronizes active duty, National Guard and Reserve educational benefits.
- Enacting the Committee's bi-partisan bill to tighten VA data security and better protect veterans in the event of theft of their personal data.

Chapter Members Honored: On September 11, the Executive Committee tapped two of our most devoted members for Distinguished Member status. Upon recommendation of the Chapter Awards Committee, the Executive Committee, by acclamation, chose Colonel Albert R. Neville, Jr., USAF (Ret) and Mrs. Violet M. Smith, Auxiliary Member to be the new Distinguished Members for 2006.

The **Distinguished Member** honor is conferred on no more than two members per year and is granted for "long and faithful service" to the Chapter or for "meritorious and noteworthy service" for those members and auxiliary members who may have less than "long (10 years)" service but have had an exceptionally positive impact on the Chapter and its goals through their work on a specific project.

The Awards Committee established through rigorous research that Al Neville and Violet Smith certainly merited selection under either set of criteria. Congratulations to both and heartfelt thanks for jobs well done!

September 2006

Operating Account:

Income: \$665.00
Expenses: \$1,142.14
Cash Flow out: -\$477.14
Operating funds: \$1803.87

Scholarship Fund:

September 1: \$940.66
Donations: \$175.00
September 22: \$1145.66

Help Our Troops Fund

September 22: \$479.61
Donations: \$256.00
50/50: \$94.00
Expended: \$0
September 22: \$829.61

Comment: Annual dues starting to come in.

Maj. Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret)
Treasurer

Project Help Our Troops, HOT

• **Operation Christmas Card** has been met with extraordinary enthusiasm. Contributions are pouring in! The October, 20 luncheon of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter will be our last opportunity to contribute to this card and Christmas decoration drive because the cards must be sorted, apportioned and distributed among our troops in time for them to mail them to their relatives and friends. These are being sent to a Muslim country so, as much as many of you would like to, please avoid giving them religious cards and articles. We don't want to offend anyone. In donating other items, please remember that we can't send pork products and aerosol propelled items. Secure caps and bottle tops to prevent leakage of containers. Looking at expiration dates would be very helpful.

• **Items needed to fill that extra little space** in the boxes are chapstick, lip gloss, 50 yard rolls of dental floss and gum, gum, gum. Our troops are risking their lives in Afghanistan and they deserve the best. The Society of Military Widows, Chapter 27, has come through again with generous donations of money and goodies. Thank you, Jessica Monk, wife of CAPT Bill Monk the President of the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA, for all that great stuff for HOT. Roger and I look forward to the next ROWC luncheon on October 10th. The Club has also adopted HOT for one of their two projects of the year. Best wishes to Barbara King for another successful year as the ROWC President. So many thanks to all of you.



Welcome our new Members

LTJG Henry R. Curran, USN (Fmr)
 1255 Pasadena Ave, S, S. Pasadena, 33707
 727 381-5411, hank2129@hotmail.com

CWO4 Joseph D. Jeffords, III, USNR (Ret)
 6021 Applecross St, N, St Petersburg, 33709
 727 546-1891, jefordsiii@aol.com

Nominations for 2007

Recommendations of the St Petersburg Area MOAA Nomination Committee for the Slate of Officers for the Year 2007.

Board of Directors

President CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret)
1st VP Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret)
2nd VP LTC Janice Mogan, USA (Ret)
Secretary **NONE**, Need Volunteer
Treasurer Maj Peter Dawson, USAF (Ret)

Executive Advisory Board

(Term Expires 31 December 2007)
 Lt Col Dick Koch, USAF (Ret)
 Lt Col Gary Gilchrist, USAF (Ret)
 CAPT Bob Eynatten, USN (Ret)

(Term Expires 31 December 2008)
 Col Bill Eisenhart, USAF (Ret)
 COL H. B. Love, USA (Ret)
 Col Sam Palmer, USAF (Ret)

In accordance the Policy Book additional nominations from the floor will be open at the October 20, 2006 membership meeting. Nominees from the floor must indicate a willingness to perform the duties of the office to which they are being nominated by so stating at the time of their nomination, or by contacting the President 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.

Ballots will be enclosed in the November newsletter, together with return address of the Chapter. The names of the Canvassing Committee will be published in the November newsletter. They will count the votes for each office and certify the results of the election at the Annual Membership meeting December 15, 2006.

The Oath of Office will be administered to all elected officers at the Installation of Officers to be held this year at a 5:30 PM dinner meeting at the Treasure Island Yacht & Country Club January 19, 2007.



Sick List

(Contact LCDR **Hazel McGrath**, 545-3884)

- * 1Lt **Robert L. Alvarez**, USMC (Ret)
6070 80th St, N, #401, St Petersburg, FL 33709
- * LTC **Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)
530 59th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706
- * Lt Col **Charles R. Hedrick**, USAF (Ret)
12136 Kay Dr, Seminole, FL 33772
- * Mrs. **Marja Borrowes**, AuxMbr-CG
1 Beach Dr, S.E., #1102, St Petersburg, FL 33701
- * LCDR. **Hazel McGrath**, USN (Ret)
5725 80th St, N., Ivy Bldg, #102, St Petersburg, 33709

Your cards, prayers and thoughts are welcome.



USS Lexington, CV2, sunk Coral Seas, 5/8/1942

I was having trouble with my computer. So I called Harold, the computer guy, to come over. Harold clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. He gave me a bill for a minimum service call.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?" He replied, "It was an ID ten T error." I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, "An ID ten T error? What's that . in case I need to fix it again?"

Harold grinned...."Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"

"No," I replied. "Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

So I wrote down. I D 1 0 T

I used to like Harold.



TAPS

Mrs. **Barbara Apter**, AuxMbr-A
September 5, 2006
Page 16, 2006 Directory
COL **Marie Kehrer**, USA (Ret)
September 15, 2006
Page 31, 2006 Directory

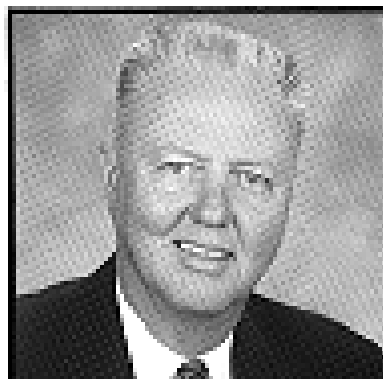


USS Nimitz, CVN68 with escorts

October Birthdays

(56 to 94 years)

| Day | L NAME, F NAME | RANK | SVC |
|-----|---------------------|--------|------------|
| 08 | Anderson, Robert | LCDR | USN (Ret) |
| 27 | Andrews, Carroll | Lt Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 05 | Bischof, Henriette | Mrs. | AuxMbr-AF |
| 16 | Brown, George | COL | USA (Ret) |
| 31 | Clark, William | Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 22 | Clift, Gloria | Mrs. | AuxMbr-A |
| 30 | Dyson, Alfred | LCDR | USN (Ret) |
| 03 | Edwards, Fred | LtCol | USMC (Ret) |
| 07 | Eynatten, Robert | CAPT | USN (Ret) |
| 04 | Finley, J. Paul | LCDR | USN (Ret) |
| 12 | Heinz, Jo Anne | LCDR | USN (Frm) |
| 19 | Kaiser, Martin | CDR | USCG (Ret) |
| 16 | Natzke, Richard | LTC | USA (Ret) |
| 12 | Osborn, Duane | LTC | USA (Ret) |
| 03 | Polk, Bob | Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 18 | Reed, Dennie Sue | Mrs. | AuxMbr-A |
| 23 | Simpson, Mary | Mrs. | AuxMbr |
| 02 | Tomasulo, Michael | MAJ | USA (Ret) |
| 01 | Zurbrick, William-2 | Capt | USAF (Ret) |



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M, F at 12:30

Sat at 10:30

Bring this ad and get a
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(Once per person)

LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, Friday, October 20th

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday October 18th

Your name: _____

Each reservation \$10:

Roast Pork: _____

Lemon Crusted Scrod: _____

*** CLIP and MAIL, with check to SPMOAA,

to=> **CAPT Bob Eynatten,**
507 Plaza Seville Ct, # 16
Treasure Island, FL 33706

For late reservations, call either:

CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637

or

CAPT Don Freese 360-3102

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

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.

CALENDAR

October 20th, Friday, 11:00, Ms. Lee ••Ann Ned, S.
E. Regional Manager, USAA (accompanied by
subject matter experts)

November 10th, Friday, 11:00 (2ND FRIDAY) COL
Scott Brumbaugh (Tentative), Election of 2007
officers. (2nd Friday of month)

December 15th, Friday, 11:00 Christmas program

January 19th, Friday, 17:00 Installation, Treasure
Islands Yacht & Country Club, Asd. SecDef, Reserve
Affairs, RADM Tom Hall

February 16th, Friday, 11:00 TBA

March 16th, Friday, 11:00 TBA

October 3rd TUESDAY; at the Wardroom, USCG
Station, Bayboro (by Albert Whitted A/P)

November 6th Monday;

December 4th Monday;

January 8th Monday (2nd Monday);

February 5th Monday;

March 5th Monday;

ROWC

Luncheon – (2nd Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30

• Reservations: LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146

Membership: Martha Willis 579-4116.

SUMMER RECESS: (June through September)

• **10 OCT 2006** The Wine Cellar, 17307 Gulf Blvd, N.
Redington Beach **Program:** Captain USCG (Ret) “Bud”

Schneeweis, National MOAA, Benefits and Information

• **14 NOV 2006** The Dolphin Inn, 4800 Gulf Blvd, St.
Pete Beach. **Program:** Fashion Show by Golden Sands.

• **12 DEC 2006** St Pete Yacht Club 11 Central Ave Avenue,
St. Petersburg **Program:** Faith Presbyterian Church Choir

Bridge – (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM
Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

• Reservations: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or
Margaret Peck 525-1688

The St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 7054
St. Petersburg, FL 33734



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