

One of MOAA's best.....



# OFFICERS CALL

October 2017

## President's Comments:

My many thanks to all of those who attended our September luncheon. This event came fast on the heels of Hurricane Irma. Surprisingly, the Pasadena Yacht Club regained electricity just in the nick of time. I know many of you did not regain power until almost a week after the storm. Thus far, I have not heard from anyone who suffered severe



damage to their residences or personal property. Thank GOD for that. The highlight events of the day included National Recognition of POW/MIA Day assisted by Chris and Ed Lillich as well as a terrific briefing by our own LTC Carol Barkalow regarding the status of Heaven on Earth for Veterans (HOEV). It's very good news to report that Carol and Sheila are in the process of adding a ninth home to their HOEV program. Also, if anyone has bicycles that are operational and wish to donate them, please call Carol or Shelia.

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, the more the merrier and a welcome addition

### INSIDE:

Calendar and Contact List .....	Page 2
Executive Committee Minutes .....	Page 3
Luncheon Minutes .....	Page 3
Legislative Update .....	Page 4
Oktoberfest Announcement .....	Page 5
Luncheon Photos .....	Page 6-7
Financial Statement .....	Page 8
Birthdays and Donations .....	Page 9
New Members .....	Page 11
TAPS .....	Page 11
Sick List .....	Page 11

to the financial bottom line of the organization. Please make your checks payable to SPA-MOAA and mail them to Bill or Ginni Eichholz at 8136 Willow Court, Seminole, FL 33776. Annotate your check at the bottom with "Oktoberfest" We really need everyone's help in supporting this fund raiser. We have a very hard-working committee for this event. So please donate early and let's have a great turnout. Questions: call 727-289-8054. Thanks in advance for your support.

P.S. I won't go into the personal diversion I provided at the luncheon but I greatly appreciate the assistance provided to me by Pete Gunderson, Carol Barkalow and my wife, the PYC assistant manager as well as the EMS team.

## Chaplain's Corner

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

If God went on strike...

What if God would go on strike because He wasn't treated fairly?  
What if God would go on strike because things happened He did not like?  
What if He gave up on us and said "That's it, I am through! I have had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do."



I'll give orders to block the sun to cut off the supply of heat!  
No more light, and I will drain the oceans dry! Then just to make things really difficult and put the pressure on, I'll turn off the oxygen till every breath is gone!

You know He would be justified if fairness was the only criteria for His mercy and grace towards us. Yet He carries on without wavering, supplying each of us with the gift of His grace and everlasting love. What a mess we would be in if you, God, should decide to go on strike!

These thoughts were expressed in a letter to Sherry Freese from the mother of her late husband, Don. Thanks Sherry for sharing them with us.

# 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**  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP- CAPT Pete Gunderson, USNR (Ret) .404-304-3313  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday — mixer 11:00 - 11:45 luncheon; program 11:45 - 13:15; Pasadena Yacht Club, 6300 Pasadena Pt Blvd So, Gulfport, FL 33707

## CALENDAR

**October 20<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: Pinellas County Sheriff, Bob Gualtieri

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: Lt Col Lichter, CENTCOM, Part II

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

**Call: LTC Bill Eichholz, 289-9653**

**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.

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

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** Monday

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

## MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

MOWC meetings resume on 10 Oct, 11:30 AM, at the Sweet Tea Celebration Room, 5325 Gulfport Blvd, Gulfport 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 - 193

Regular Members - 132

Auxiliary Members - 61

### Military Services:

Army - 64

USMC - 7

USAF - 29

USCG - 7

Navy - 25

NOAA - 0

9/28/2017

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## Executive Committee Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;  
5 September 2017  
Reported by Ginni Eichholz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz. Invocation was given by Glen Crabb. Bill led the Pledge of Allegiance. The President opened the meeting for discussion. Ed Lillich moved to approve Secretary's Minutes as published. Second by Evey Hamilton. Minutes approved as published. Treasurer Pete Dawson gave the Treasurer's report. Bill Lofgren moved to approve Treasurer's report subject to audit. Second by Ed Lillich. Treasurer's report approved subject to audit.



POW/MIA Day is 15 September: Ed and Chris Lillich will set up the Recognition Table and Ed will explain the significance of the items placed on the table.

Jane Gaugh and George Brown are on our sick list. Bill Lofgren presented the slate of Officers for 2018. Glen Crabb moved to accept the slate as presented. Violet Smith second. Slate approved as presented.

Pauline Edwards has put out our MOAA press releases for local papers and has one potential new member. Oktoberfest committee is hard at work preparing for a fun evening. The event is 4 November at Harbourside Club House at Sailboat Key.

After a break for lunch, Glen Crabb gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Executive Board meeting is 2 October.

### 2018 Proposed Slate of Officers

Following is the slate of officers and Executive Advisory Board (EAB) members for the 2018 calendar year. At the October membership meeting on October 20th, 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,

(Slate continued next column)

## Luncheon Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;  
15 September 2017  
Reported by Ginni Eichholz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz. After giving the invocation, Bill welcomed guest Bob Cook who was invited by Pete Gunderson.

Door prize drawing winner was Ginni Eichholz. 50/50 drawing winners were Ken Fine and Ed Lillich.

Ed Lillich explained the symbolism of the POW/MIA table. After reading President Trump's proclamation declaring 15 September 2017 National POW/MIA Day, Bill had a dizzy spell and was transported to the hospital. 1st VP Pete Gunderson took over the meeting and after lunch introduced Carol Barkalow who gave an informative update on Heaven on Earth for Veterans.

#### Post Script:

Bill was suffering from dehydration and a drop-in blood pressure. After staying overnight for observation, he was released. Bill is taking it easy at home.

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 October meeting, with any nominations from the floor, a slate of candidates will be drawn up and published in the November Officer's Call with an address for the membership to mail their ballot; or, they may bring their ballot to the December 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-SP  
**Treasurer:** TBD

Executive Advisory Board (Term Expires 31 December 2019)

Mrs. Katie Crabb, AuxMbr-Sp  
Lt Col Laurance N. Fernald, USAF, (Ret)  
Mrs. Evey M. Hamilton, AuxMbr-A



## Legislative Update

### From MOAA and other sources

#### Key Bills

These are some of the important issues before Congress:

#### Federal - S 66

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

#### Federal - S 143

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

#### Federal - S 339

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

#### Federal - HR 303

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat-related special compensation.

#### Federal - HR 333

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

#### Raise SSIA for Military Widows

Both House and Senate versions of the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill prevent the \$310 monthly allowance (SSIA) for SBP-DIC widows from expiring. But neither bill would continue previously intended increases in SSIA to make progress toward phasing out the SBP-DIC offset. The big problem is money; it's very hard for the Armed Services Committee to identify more of the "mandatory spending" funds required to raise SSIA. So we need to get senior House and Senate leaders involved to provide the kind of funds the Armed Services Committees can't come up with. Please send the MOAA-suggested message to help push the leaders to do that.

#### Prevent Steep TRICARE Fee Hikes

The FY2018 national defense authorization bill negotiations are underway. The Senate's budget request includes large increases to TRICARE fees across the board. These fee increases are a direct result of the repeal of the 2017 National Defense Authorizations grand-fathering clause. The intention of the grand-fathering was to keep fees where they currently are for beneficiaries in the service prior to 1 January 2018. Compensation is Crucial to Recruitment and Retention. The president has requested DoD commence with the 13th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) to assess the adequacy of military compensation and, essentially, decide if a salary system would be more effective for recruiting and retention.

## CONTRIBUTE TO LONG TERM PLANNING FOR ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

August 24, 2017

Arlington National Cemetery leadership must decide soon on a path forward for the cemetery to remain active for new burials beyond the next 25 years. Plans for eligibility changes and physical expansion are still up in the air, but you have a chance to inform the final decisions.

While the cemetery's Advisory Committee continues to work with military and veterans groups to gain perspective on the military community's opinion, this survey will carry a lot of weight.

If you have any inkling of interest in the future of Arlington National Cemetery, please do your part to contribute to the conversation and take the survey.

Congress directed the Secretary of the Army to provide a report detailing the cemetery's current capacity status and identifying solutions to extend the life of the cemetery well into the future. The Army has yet to take a position on the report recommendations. MOAA provided a summary of the report earlier this year, and carried out our own survey last fall.

We eagerly await the results of this much broader survey, and we welcome your comments on both the issue and the survey at [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org).

Been There and Done That:

**Doctor:** Madam, your husband needs rest and peace, so here are some sleeping pills.

**Wife:** Doc, when should I give them to him?

**Doctor:** They are for you!



# Oktoberfest

Saturday November 4, 2017

Cocktails 5:00 pm      Dinner 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Harbourside Clubhouse

7911 Sailboat Key Blvd

S. Pasadena, FL

German Food and Drinks

Beer, Wine, Potato Salad, Red Cabbage, Apple  
Strudel

Live Auction

Fun

Sponsored by St Petersburg Chapter of MOAA

This is a fund raiser for the Chapter

Donation \$50 per ticket

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





L to R: Carol Barkalow, our guest speaker, Pete Gunderson, and Sheila Mutascio



Our Chapter Treasurer, Pete Dawson, pleading for a person to step up and take his job



Guest speaker, Carol Barkalow talking about Heaven on Earth for Veterans (HOEV)



Evey Hamilton with 50/50 winner Ed Lillich



Bob Reed



Bob Cook and Pete Gunderson



Dave and Carol Sjolund



Door prize winner Ginni Eichholz and Pauline Edwards



Bill and Ginni Eichholz (from an older luncheon since Bill had to leave unexpectedly)



Sherry Freese with "The Quilt"



Sheila Mutascio and Carol Barkalow



Ellen Marie and Ken Fine

**Photos by Bill Lofgren.**

If you would like a copy of a photo, please email Bill at [papabill77@outlook.com](mailto:papabill77@outlook.com)



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## Mattis: {Building a More Lethal Force}

By Cheryl Pellerin DoD News, Defense Media Activity  
(partial comments delivered by SECDEF JAMES MATTIS to  
the Air Force Association)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20, 2017 — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis delivered the keynote address on the final day of the Air Force Association's annual Air and Space Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, to a standing room only audience of defense officials, legislators and soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. The secretary spoke about the department's current efforts, but he also had words for the airmen. The Air Force is a reminder, he said, that American has two fundamental sources of power — inspiration and intimidation. "You represent rightly the power of intimidation, even though you are often the ... most reassuring ambassadors to allies and friends who are trying to keep the peace," Mattis said. "And whether it's safeguarding the nuclear deterrent or air combat mobility, to space, to personnel management processes and policies, and everything in between, your actions must meet one standard, and that is to make the U.S. Air Force more lethal every day that you serve," he added.

### Lethality and Readiness

U.S. adversaries are making concentrated efforts to erode the nation's competitive edge, Mattis said. Some nations that are challenging U.S. dominance in the air are doing so through a proliferation of advanced integrated air defense networks plus fifth-generation aircraft, the secretary said, noting that space is contested and cyberspace, the newest domain, is contested in an operating realm at the tactical, operational and strategic levels of conflict. "That means that we took several thousand years of war on land and sea, and it took us about 100 years to get another domain, air, brought to the position we're in today," Mattis said. "And then in the last 10 years, we've seen basically two new domains mature into warfighting realms on us. Never in history has this happened in our past." "If we fail to adapt ... at the speed of relevance, then our military forces and our Air Force will lose the very technical and tactical advantages we've enjoyed since World War II," the secretary said.

(for more information regarding this complete article by Cheryl Pellerin go to SECDEF NEWS 21 SEP 2017)

## Financial Report Summary for the Month of August 2017

### Operating Income

..... Luncheon Income .....	\$ 650.00
..... Dues .....	\$ 0.00
..... 50/50 .....	\$ 26.00
..... Miscellaneous Income .....	\$ 10.00
..... Interest Earned .....	\$
..... Total Income .....	\$ 686.00

### Operating Expenses

..... Luncheon Expense .....	\$ 620.11
..... Supplies .....	\$
..... Honoraria/Donations .....	\$
..... Post Office .....	\$
..... Printing .....	\$
..... Other Organizations .....	\$
..... Memorials SF .....	\$
..... VA/JROTC .....	\$ 250.00
..... Misc Expenses .....	\$
Total Expenses .....	\$ 870.11
..... Operations Cash Flow .....	\$ (184.11)

### Operating Fund Summary

..... Starting balance .....	\$ 1,972.42
..... Cash Flow .....	\$ (184.11)
..... Ending Balance .....	\$ 1,788.31

### Scholarship Fund

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

### HOT/HOEV Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month (Rev'd) .	\$ 5,157.82
..... Donations .....	\$ 100.00
..... Expenses .....	\$
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 5,257.52

### Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month (Rev) ...	\$ 1,015.12
..... Donations .....	\$ 10.00
..... Ad Income .....	\$ 300.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses .....	\$ (308.74)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 1,016.38





## 2017 Scholarship Fund

### Donors

(Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

#### ••GOLD –

Bartlett, Bill CAPT  
Carr, Paulette Mrs.  
Carr, Terry LTC  
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.  
Eichholz, Bill LTC  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Freese, Sherry Mrs.  
Gunderson, Pete CAPT  
Hamilton, Evey Mrs.  
Lofgren, Bill Col  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.  
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

Member donations ONLY:  
\$2,683 as of 9/28/2017

#### ••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL  
Bolin, Bill CDR  
Christie, Bob LtCol  
Dawson, Pete Maj  
Finley, Paul LCDR  
Mallory, Pauline LTC  
Sims, Bob Maj  
  
••BRONZE –  
Anderson, Eric LCDR  
Bolin, Bill CDR  
Crabb, Glen CDR  
D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs.  
Edwards, Richard CAPT  
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen  
Gioe', Shirley Mrs.  
Gunderson, Kathy Mrs.  
Holecek, John LTC  
Isley, Anne Mrs.  
Roberson, Hal Col  
Terry, Maxine Mrs.  
Tondreau, Tunney CWO4

## October Birthdays

(66 to 98 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
23	Balke	Virginia	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
14	Bell	James	Col	USMC (Ret)
25	Broderick	Thomas	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
16	Brown	George	COL	USA (Ret)
11	Dunn	George	COL	USA (Ret)
04	Finley	J. Paul	LCDR	USN (Ret)
30	Ponder	Betty	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
13	Terry	Maxine	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
29	Trahan	Creighton	LTC	USA (Ret)
7	Ward	James	CW2	USA (Ret)
16	Warren	David	LTC	USA (Ret)

## 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  
MOAA Bonus  
Munchbach, Rose LTC  
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.

Popham, Roger COL  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

#### ••SILVER –

Christie, Bob LtCol  
Eichholz, Bill LTC

#### ••BRONZE –

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

Member donations ONLY:  
\$3,300.00 as of 9/28/2017

## 2017 Help Our Troops Heaven on Earth for Veterans

### Donors

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

#### ••GOLD –

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

Member donations ONLY:  
\$1,865 as of 9/28/2017

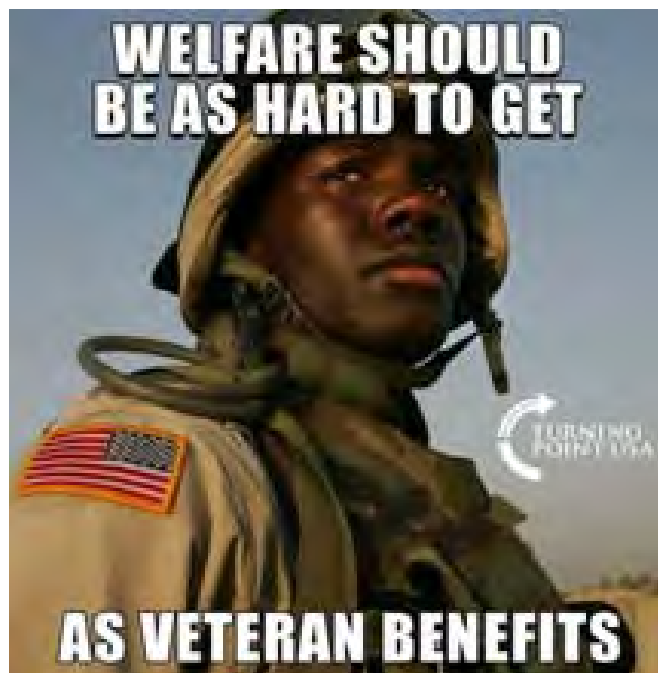
Poteat, Gen Mrs.  
Sims, Bob Maj  
Sjolund, Carol Mrs.  
Smith, Violet Mrs.  
Summers, Stormy Col  
Talbitzer, John LT

#### ••SILVER –

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

#### ••BRONZE –

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



## BRACING FOR BRAC

September 15, 2017

The Pentagon may finally get its wish for a new round of base closures. After requesting a new round of Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, for each of the last five years, it appears that support for the initiative is gaining.

The intent of BRAC is efficiently maximizing readiness; having the right people, supplies, and support programs in the right places.

The final decision on proceeding with a new round of BRAC will be made in conference committee during discussions on the National Defense Authorization bill. Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.), the top two lawmakers on the Senate Armed Services Committee, filed a joint amendment to the annual defense authorization bill to authorize a new BRAC. In the House, Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), the number two member of the Armed Services Committee, spearheaded the initiative.

BRAC rounds often are justified by billions in annual savings from the defense budget. However, loss of military facilities can drastically change the economic dynamic of a region, occasionally for the worse.

Some lawmakers remain skeptical, citing the initial losses incurred from the last round of closures in 2005 before any savings could be claimed. This week, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) penned an op-ed in the Washington Times arguing that resources to conduct a new BRAC could be better spent on military readiness.

But with three of the top four members of the Armed Services Committees actively supporting a BRAC, it looks increasingly likely that the initiative could make it into the defense authorization bill's final language.

Though all states are subject to review, five states harbor over half of all active duty military personnel: California, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. And just the rumors of another round of BRAC have several states scrambling to establish task forces to find ways to preserve their bases.

This time, there is a new cause for concern. Typically, BRAC commissions decide how best to go about closing bases and shifting resources. The McCain-Reed amendment gives the Government Accountability Office (GAO) responsibility for picking which bases will be targeted.

### A dense defense

Half of all active duty personnel are concentrated in five states



With recent reports suggesting over 20 percent excess capacity throughout current military infrastructure, GAO could be looking to make significant cuts. GAO is a numbers-based assessor, unlike commissions comprising individuals with knowledge of force-structure needs from past BRAC rounds.

Given an appropriate business case and the needs of servicemembers and their families are addressed, MOAA could support a BRAC. But it is imperative that GAO must look at this as more than just a numbers game.

“If a BRAC is approved, we will work with our members to ensure the cascading effects on our retirees and veterans and their families are being addressed,” says Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA's vice president of Government Relations. “And we will have time to watch this develop, given the lengthy lead time and notification requirements.”

Photo by: JoAnne Castagna

Chapter dues renewal has begun. As of 28 Sep, 28% of our members have renewed. Please renew early to save the chapter money and to help us earn a bonus from MOAA. Thank you





## TAPS

Mrs. Jane Gaugh, AuxMbr-Navy, 13 September 2017

Mrs. Genevieve A. Poteat, AuxMbr-Army, 18 September 2017



## Welcome Our New Members!

Maj Lawrence "Larry" O'Hara, USAR (Ret)

## Sick List

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

**COL George Brown**

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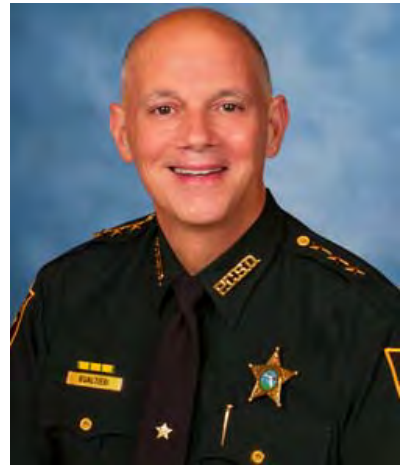


# Happy Birthday U.S Navy 13 October 2017

## Sheriff Bob Gualtieri (R)

Pinellas County  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Address: 10750  
Ulmerton Rd, Largo,  
FL 33778  
Phone: (727) 582-  
6200



### Education

Bachelor's degree,  
Eckerd College; law  
degree, Stetson  
University College  
of Law.

### Career

Detention Deputy, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office,  
1982; Patrol Officer, Dunedin Police Department;  
served in several law enforcement roles, Pinellas  
County Sheriff's Office, 1984-1998; private law practice;  
General Counsel, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, 2006-  
2008; Chief Deputy and General Counsel, Pinellas  
County Sheriff's Office, 2008-2011; governor-appointed  
Sheriff of Pinellas County, 2011; elected Sheriff of  
Pinellas County, 2012, re-elected 2016.

"From the beaches to the bridges, sponge docks to  
the Sunshine Skyway...we are leading the way for a  
safer Pinellas." --Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

### Honors and Affiliations

2014 Sheriff of the Year, Crisis Intervention Team  
International; Bar Admissions: Florida Supreme Court,  
all Florida Courts, U.S. District Courts for the Northern,  
Middle, and Southern Districts of Florida, U.S. Eleventh  
Circuit Court of Appeals; memberships: Florida Bar  
Association; American Bar Association; Federal Bar  
Association; bar associations of Clearwater, St. Peters-  
burg, and Hillsborough County; International Associa-  
tion of Chiefs of Police; Police Executive Research  
Forum; National Sheriffs' Association; Major County  
Sheriffs' Association; board member: Boys & Girls Clubs  
of the Suncoast; Pinellas Homeless Leadership Board;  
Pinellas Sheriff's Police Athletic League; member and  
chair, Legislative Committee, Florida Sheriffs Associa-  
tion; Executive Fellow, Police Foundation.



## US Military Holidays and Observances October

13th: U. S. Navy Birthday  
26th: Day of the Deployed

## LUNCHEON MEETING

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

### Pasadena Yacht Club

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Reservations NLT 18 Oct 2017

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or

**Email:** pauline@tampabay.rr.com

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**Pauline Edwards  
7979 Sailboat Key Blvd, #607  
S. Pasadena, FL 33707-6356**

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**LTC Bill Eichholz, 727-289-8054**