



OFFICERS CALL

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



VOL VII No. X ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-08 ★★★★★ October 2009
Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!

President's Comments:

Congratulations to our new editor, Jim Patton. As you can see, he has done a great job on this edition.

As you know from last month's edition, we celebrated the 100th birthday of one of our members at our September luncheon.

By all accounts, the birthday party was a huge success. I regret that I was unable to be there, but previous commitments kept me away.



Thank you to Ed Lillich, Larry Butterfield, and Paul and Betty Finley for making this a special day for Mrs. Crook.

On another note, our chapter membership has been fairly stagnant the last year, even decreasing slightly. Due to the convention that we hosted, we were late in getting our yearly membership drive going. However, it is in full swing now.

I sent out 496 letters last month inviting MOAA members and lapsed MOAA members to join our chapter. The results of those letters has been extremely disappointing.

As of the 23rd of September, we have not gotten a single new member as a result of those letters. We did get a lapsed MOAA Auxiliary member to renew/rejoin MOAA, which is a good thing. And, we did get one response from a prospective member who was a MOAA member and a prospective chapter member. But, upon further review, the individual was not eligible to join our chapter, or for that matter, even be a member of MOAA.

So, where do we go from here to try to increase our membership? As always, the answer relies on each and every one of us. If we want to have a viable and enthusiastic chapter, each of us needs to be involved in recruiting and retention...just as we should be involved in chapter day-to-day activities.

To that end, at the October luncheon, I will have listings of names, addresses, and phone numbers, broken out by zip code, of MOAA members who are potential chapter members. I will ask each of us to take a sheet and phone some or all of the names on that particular list and invite them to a luncheon.

**Please fly your flag on October 12th,
Columbus Day**

See President's, Pg 10

Our October Speaker: Sheriff Jim Coats

Jim Coats was elected Pinellas County Sheriff in November 2004, and began his four-year term after being sworn in on January 3, 2005. His election to Sheriff caps a thirty-five year career with the Pinellas Sheriff's Office, where his first job was that of a deputy sheriff on road patrol.



A United States Air Force veteran, Coats began his career in law enforcement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office after graduating from the Pinellas Police Academy. He holds a two-year degree in Business Administration from St. Petersburg Junior College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from St. Leo University.

Jim Coats was twice assigned by Governor Chiles to serve as interim sheriff: Santa Rosa County, Florida (August-November 1992), and Gulf County, Florida (June 1994 to February 1995). In addition, he briefly served as interim Chief of Police for Indian Rocks Beach (October to December 1993). In July 1995, Sheriff Everett Rice named Jim Coats his Chief Deputy, where he served until elected Sheriff.

Sheriff Coats is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the FBI Executive Institute, the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, the Secret Service Dignitary Protection School, and the National Aviation Academy. He holds a commercial pilot's certificate, with instrument and multi-engine ratings.

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Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up - 2008

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

2009 —

COL Ron Merritt, USA	397-9809
CDR Maureen Conners, USN	347-7976
Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMember-N	347-3730

2009 & 2010 —

CDR Bill Bolin, USN	584-1595
LT Ed Conners, USN	347-7976
Mrs. Barbara Walters, AuxMember-A	595-4619

Immediate Past President

CAPT Don Freese, USN	360-3102
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising	LTC Janice Mogan, USA	381-3997
Auxiliary Liaison	Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N ..	367-9050
Awards	Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF	525-1688
Bylaws/Policy Bk	LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC	360-2936
Chaplain:	COL George Brown, USA	866-6859
Data Base	Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF	522-6237
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Historian:	LTC Marie Lorence, USA	595-1342
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Legislative:	CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG	393-4160
MacDill Liaison	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A	595-5543
Master at Arms	CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG	821-7365
Membership	LTC Terry Carr, USA	381-3997
Memorial	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A	595-5543
Newsletter	CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG	393-4160
Nominating Cmte	Col Bill Lofgren, USAF	528-3946
Personal Affairs	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A	595-5543
Programs	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA	546-2246
Publicity:	Mrs. Chris Lillich	546-2246
Reservations	LCDR Paul Finley	391-5908
ROWC Liaison	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A	595-5543
Scholarships:	Col Stew Palmer, USAF	343-5022
TOPS	COL Ron Merritt, USA	367-9809
VA Vol Svc	LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN	545-3884
Vet Liaison	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA	546-2246
Visitation	LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN	545-3884

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 309
 Regular Members - 224
 Auxiliary Members - 85
 Inactive Members - (6)

Military Services:

Army - 71	USMC - 16
USAF - 77	USCG - 8
Navy - 52	NOAA - 0

9/17/2009

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

CALENDAR

October 16th, Friday. Speaker: Sheriff Jim Coats

November 20th, Friday. Speaker: TBD

December 18th, Friday. Speaker: TBD

January 16th, Saturday. Installation Dinner

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

Call: LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908

or Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237

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.

October 5th Monday

November 2nd Monday

December 7th Monday

ROWC

Luncheons:

- 13 October--11:30, Wine Cellar, 17307 Gulf Blvd
 - 10 November--11:30, Dolphin Inn, 4900 Gulf Blvd
 - 14 December--11:30, Isla del Sol, 6000 Sun Blvd
 - January thru May--Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd
- Luncheon Reservations: Bobbie Walters, 595-4619, or Evelyn Hamilton, 399-1272

Bridge: (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

Having trouble reading the *Officers Call*? Have a home computer?

Did you know that if you were to subscribe to the *Officers Call* via email that you could, using your computer, easily enlarge the pages and even selectively print out a page or more? Or, just read or print it all out in color!

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





My Accident

The “true” story of what happened on 18 August 2009

My neighbor is a native of Lebanon, of a town named Brumalla, in the hills near Beirut. Before coming to the United States and for a time after she was a performance artist entertaining by belly dancing for family and friends. Not just a belly dancer but one who used a python snake in her act. Now Fatima loved her pet snake and took good care of it and made sure it lived and ate well; stray rabbits for example. It didn't eat cats or camels or dogs because Fatima loved all animals and really tried to make the snake like a vegetarian diet but was never able to do that.

On the night in question I heard a crying from Fatima's back yard that she could not find her pet python. Eleanor, my room mate, told me I should go help Fatima find the snake because she was really upset that her wonderful pet and working companion had disappeared. As you can imagine, Fatima really loves serpents. It didn't take but a few minutes to find the snake after I arrived in her yard. Unfortunately, it found me first and latched onto my left ankle. Now there was some real hooting and hollering as I tried to get away while Fatima was worried that I might choke her pet because I was too big for it to swallow. By now Eleanor had arrived at the scene and quickly made the decision to go get my axe from our yard shed. Eleanor wasn't worried about the snake's health and proceeded to chop at it's head. After a couple of well administered whacks, the snake let me go. Next thing I knew the paramedics were there to haul me off to the hospital. I remain in Rehabilitation to this date, four weeks after the incident.

I know of an offer of a good deal on a large bridge south of St. Petersburg. But I am afraid that the low price won't last long: The St. Petersburg City Council my buy it.

If you believe any of the foregoing I do know of a famous bridge that can be bought cheaply!

Basil

I am happy to report that Basil was discharged from rehab on Tuesday September 15, 2009 and is continuing his rehabilitation at home.

Jim

Honor Grounds Update

At the August luncheon COL Sharon Richie-Melvan spoke about the Florida Veteran's Foundation and the need to support this worthy organization. One way to do it is to purchase Honor Grounds (a pound of coffee) with all profits going to the Foundation. This is an item that the HOT program can include in the boxes sent to the troops. It has been reported that not all Sweetbay Supermarkets are carrying the Honor Grounds. Upon checking the Sweetbay on 66th street at 46th Avenue does stock them. They can also be obtained by calling 1-800-724-1125 and they will take the order over the phone.

The 2010 MOAA FCOC Convention

May 21 – 23 are the dates for the 2010 convention. The prices are outstanding - \$90.00 per night per room with no additional taxes or fees. We are saving you the extra charges by doing the registration for you with the hotel. This makes it simpler for you to register and pay for the convention. Just add up the costs for all the events and the room nights needed on the registration form and write one check to our chapter. We will do the rest and send you a confirmation number from the hotel. One check does it all !

There are still a few spaces available for the free room night drawing at the convention. Register now and be one of the first 45 eligible to be in the drawing for the \$90.00 cash.

Check the Florida Council of Chapters website www.moaaf.org and click on the “convention” tab, then choose “2010” for details and registration form or contact Jim Conner at 239-542-5627 or jmcf1@comcast.net. We can mail a registration form to you complete with return addressed envelope if you prefer.

The Broken Leg

How did it happen?” the doctor asked as he set the man's broken leg.

”Well, doc, 25 years ago ...”

”Never mind the past. Tell me how you broke your leg this morning.”

”Like I was saying...25 years ago, when I working on my Garden, the neighbours beautiful wife stopped by and asked me if there was anything I wanted. I said, “No, everything is fine.”

”Are you sure?” she asked.

”I'm sure,” I said.

”Isn't there anything I can do for you?” she wanted to know.

”I reckon not,” I replied.

”Excuse me,” said the doctor, “What does this story have to do with your leg?”

”Well, this morning, when it dawned on me what she had in mind, I fell off the stairs!”





Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 8 September 2009 Reported by Chris Lillich, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 11:30 a.m. First Vice President Ed Lillich gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry. Sixteen were present including Bill Bolin, Terry Carr, Pete Dawson, Fred Edwards, Larry Fernald, Paul Finley, Don Freese, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Hazel McGrath, Stew Palmer, Jim Patton and Violet Smith, Bobbie Walters, and guest, Betty Finley. Violet Smith made a motion to accept the August minutes as printed, seconded by Ed Lillich. Motion carried.



Treasurer' Report: The August financial report was presented by Pete Dawson. \$6,000 will be deposited from the convention account to the operating account. The full financial report is found elsewhere in the Officers Call. Don Freese moved that the Treasurers report be accepted as presented, seconded by Jim Patton.

First Vice President: Ed Lillich requested holding a special twelve minute POW/MIA service presented by six members of the Liaison Council Honor Guard immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance at the luncheon on 18 September 2009. Motion was made by Don Freese to approve this ceremony, seconded by Violet Smith and motion carried. The scheduled program for the day will be given by the Marketing Director of Fantasy of Flight.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

H.O.T.: Bill Bolin contacted CENTCOM for addresses and in the process was referred to Bob Williams from the Wesley Chapter of MOAA who has a Support our Troops program. Bill drove up to visit Bob Williams and came back with a carload of items including 1000 individual packages of Lance Cookies, 6,080 cigars and a list of names and addresses.

Membership: Terry Carr reported that 496 letters have been sent to the following: 283 National MOAA members, 121 Auxiliary members, and 92 lapsed MOAA members, none of whom are Chapter members. If anyone knows any of the persons that have received these letters it would be a good idea to call them and personally invite them to join our Chapter.

Scholarship: Stu Palmer reported that we have \$4,400 toward our \$5,000 yearly commitment.

Hospital Liaison: Violet Smith attended the meeting of the Hospital Commander at MacDill AFB on 25 August. Colonel Beatty reported the new building will not be a hospital but an OPclinic, no ER, no inpatient care. Everything there will be state of the art and an open house will be held on 17 October. The old hospital is due to be demolished very soon after 53 years of operation. An official ribbon cutting of the new facil-

ity will be in November to coincide with the 60th anniversary of AF Medical Care. The first day of operation for the clinic will be Monday 28 Sept 2009 at 0700 hours. The address for the new clinic is 3250 Zemke Avenue, MacDill AFB, FL 33621, phone numbers are the same as the old facility and hours of operation are Monday-Friday 0700-1630 hrs. and closed holidays, family days and the 3rd Wednesday afternoon of each month. The 6th Medical Group is a tobacco free campus. Colonel Beatty and the entire staff are aware of the shortcomings and complaints resulting from the new PharmaCare and the drive through lanes. This situation is being addressed and every effort is being made to make it more consumer friendly.

If you have outdated drugs take them to the MacDill Pharmacy for disposal. Do not flush outdated drugs or drugs that are not currently being used. Many local drugstores will also take them for disposal. The next meeting with the Hospital Commander will be in November.

Nominating Committee: Bill Lofgren still needs a candidate for the position of Second Vice President. Please see Bill if you are interested in filling this position.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pete Dawson made a motion that the Chapter give an honorarium to the Florida Veterans Foundation in the name of our August Luncheon speaker, COL Sharon Richey-Melvin, in the amount of \$150.00. Violet Smith seconded the motion and motion carried.

There being no further business, Ed Lillich gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next executive meeting will be 6 October 2009 at 1130 hours.

Warning from the Veterans Administration

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning Veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

“America’s Veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the Department built for them,” said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA’s Under Secretary for Health. “VA simply does not call Veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone.”

Veteran Service Organizations have brought to VA’s attention that callers are misrepresenting the VA to gain personal information over the phone. They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the Veteran’s credit card number.

“VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines,” Cross said. “Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation’s Veterans.”

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**
From MOAA and other sources

Panel Examines VA Rating System

Government witnesses, researchers and advocacy groups offered different perspectives at a Sept. 17 Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on calculation of compensation for service-caused disabilities. Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Committee Chairman, said recent studies suggest some vets are undercompensated while others may be overcompensated, and that a “deliberate approach” is needed in reforming the system.

Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) pointed out that the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (2007) and the Dole - Shalala Commission both concluded that the rehabilitation aim of the VA disability program was not being met. Those studies also recommended that veterans should be compensated not only for lost earnings capacity but for lost quality of life.

Dr. George Kettner, PhD, President of Economic Systems, Inc. testified that veterans with PTSD experience greater earnings loss than veterans with physical disabilities. For example, veterans with a 100% rating for PTSD earn 92% less than their physically disabled counterparts. For other mental disorders, earning loss can be even more significant.

LTG Terry Scott, USA-Ret., who chaired the VA Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation, testified that his committee has informally recommended to VA Secretary Shinseki that the Deputy Secretary [Scott Gould] should be tasked to oversee a “systematic review and update process” for the VA Schedule of Rating Disabilities (VASRD) and a permanent staff to accomplish that “high priority” task. Scott also said that quality of life compensation should be limited to “clearly defined and very serious disability.”

Scott noted that it takes about one year to do a complete review of one of the 15 “body systems” in the VASRD. He urged that work get started to review and update three or four body systems per year and that the work should be done internally by the VA.

Lt Col John Wilson, USAF-Ret., testifying for the Disabled American Veterans, pointed out that the VA’s strategic plan doesn’t address revising the VASRD, so tactical execution of the task could be questionable.

MOAA believes strongly that the VA rating system needs to be modernized, with priority emphasis on improving rating criteria for TBI, PTSD and other behavioral wounds that occur in military service.

House Leaders Expect DoD TRICARE Fee Hikes

Leaders of the House Armed Services Committee say they expect the Pentagon will once again propose big TRICARE fee hikes for military retirees.

Their March 15 letter to the Chairman of the House Budget Committee was very specific on the latter point, and asked for extra budget authority to reject the expected increases.

“The committee believes that the [end of April] budget request will again assume over \$1 billion in savings within the Defense health budget, based on recommendations from a previous Defense Department Task Force,” said the letter signed by Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO) and Ranking Minority Member John McHugh (R-NY). “The committee will need additional [budget headroom] to prohibit the fee increases that we expect will be proposed by the Department of Defense.”

If you agree with MOAA that that’s the last thing the Defense Department should do, you still have time to weigh in with the President and the Secretary of Defense, but you need to act quickly.

E-mail President Obama: [Use MOAA’s special alert.](#)

E-mail Secretary of Defense Gates: The Secretary has no public e-mail address, so you have to go to the [DoD Web site](#), click on the “Ask a Question/Make a Comment” tab at the top, fill out the required information, and include this recommended comment:

For Secretary Gates: As you prepare the FY2010 budget, please don’t resume past failed efforts to impose unfair TRICARE fee increases on retired military families. Career military people were told that their decades of arduous service and sacrifice constituted a steep, pre-paid premium that earned lifetime health coverage. Large proposed TRICARE fee hikes have been upsetting because they devalue those decades of sacrifice — in wartime, no less. Please seize this opportunity to suspend these divisive efforts and work with military associations to develop positive incentives and ‘win-win’ solutions for all concerned.

Wounded Warrior Symposium

An overflow crowd of more than 600 people attended the [day-long symposium](#) sponsored by MOAA and the U.S. Naval Institute on Sept 16 to highlight continuing challenges facing America’s wounded warriors, their units, families, and caregivers.

The event featured a special focus on the unseen injuries of traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and depression.

Three key speakers set the tone in expressing government actions and intentions.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman ADM Michael Mullen, USN, kicked off the event with a powerful statement of the nation’s

See Legislative, Pg 8





Monthly Luncheon; 18 September 2009

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended – 67: (60 reservations), 0 Member Guest,
7 Chapter Guest
[2 Walk-in, 2 No-show]

In Basil's absence, the minutes were provided by Chris Lillich

The monthly luncheon meeting was called to order by First Vice President Ed Lillich at 11:45 a.m. Terry Carr, Second Vice President, gave the Invocation. The Veterans Liaison Council Honor Guard opened the special presentation for POW-MIA Recognition Day by unraveling a flag prior to the members rendering the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Honor Guard members, Bob Sinclair, Charlie Rubado and James Bell folded the flag into a quarter fold while Herb Karkheck recited the meaning of each of the twelve folds. David Mallory provided TAPS to conclude the ceremony. Ed Lillich is Commander of this unit and Herb Karkheck is Operations Officer.



Auxiliary member Meredith Crook was celebrating her 100th birthday with us and was presented with a birthday cake. Larry Butterfield, the candy man, surprised Meredith with a beautiful basket of chocolates. Pauline Edwards also was celebrating her birthday on this day, but she has a long way to go before she reaches Meredith's milestone. Happy Birthday to both of these lovely ladies. In addition, Bob Sinclair of the Honor Guard was celebrating his birthday.

Bad News!!!! Hazel McGrath, the lady that sends cards to all those sick and injured, needs cards from you. Hazel fell this past week and broke her shoulder, hip and some ribs. She is recovering at the Seminole Square Nursing and Rehab Facility. Please send any cards to 5725 80th St N, Ivy Bldg. #102, St Petersburg, FL 33709 or call her at 398-0123.

Good News!!!! Basil Burrell is home – in a wheelchair as he can't put weight on his injury, but give him a call – he would love to hear from you. Knowing Basil I expect he will be showing up at one of our meetings minutes in the near future.

We welcomed new members Col USAF Bill and Lenore Binzer and Auxiliary member, Johnnie Neville. Also with us was David Drake, brother-in-law of Dick Koch.

Don Freese spoke on life membership in MOAA. To date 210 chapter members are life members and Don urges all who aren't to become a life member as this will enable your spouse

to retain a membership when you have taken your last plane ride or last golf cart ride.

Sixty seven members and guests were in attendance to vie for the door prize which was won by Joanne Taylor. Joanne must have had a lucky charm with her as she won one of the 50/50 drawings in addition to Sherry Freese, Connie Smith and Pete Dawson. Larry Butterfield donated boxes of candy which were won by James Bell, Bobbie Walters and another lucky lady, Sherry Freese. Congratulations to all.

Anita Harrow, Chairlady of H.O.T. asked the members to check with churches, friends and neighbors who might know someone serving in Afghanistan because she has so many items that she will now send to individuals until she is able to obtain Unit Addresses. She has a lot of "stuff" including Girl Scout cookies, pretzels and potato chips. Anita does need beef jerky, coffee and raisins and boxes of Christmas cards, but CANNOT accept religious cards. At the October meeting Anita will have cards available for the Chapter members to sign which will be sent along with the Christmas boxes.

Following lunch we had a great program monitored by Ms Jamie Tacy from Fantasy of Flight. Jamie presented a power point showing many of the airplanes. Fantasy of Flight opened in 1985 and is the vision of Kermit Weeks an award winning pilot, author and world renowned aircraft collector. Located off Exit #44 from I-4, Fantasy of Flight offers daily aerial demonstrations and houses the world's greatest aircraft collection. Exclusive tours of runways, hangars and private airfield are guided by knowledgeable, experienced aviation enthusiasts with a real passion for flying. Priceless aircraft are being restored by expert craftsmen and multi-media exhibits feature the fearless WASP (Woman Air Force Service Pilots) and the courageous and historic Tuskegee Airmen. There are over 40 vintage aircraft including the legendary WWII B-26 Marauder and the B-24 Liberator, the P-51 Mustang and the B-17 Flying Fortress. In addition you can see the Grumman Duck which was used to carry medical supplies, the TBM Avenger which the first President Bush flew, the TMB Avenger and the TP40. Ride in the hot air balloon or soar in an authentic biplane and feel the rush of flying in an open-air cockpit. For more information on Fantasy of Flight go to www.fantasyofflight.com. On a personal note, Jamie is engaged to Kermit Weeks' son. That's one way to keep it all in the family. All those who attended the luncheon will tell you this was a great presentation by Jamie and we thank her very much for giving us an insight of what we have missed by not touring the facility. The Fearless Men of the B17 Flying Fortress Symposium and Military collection show will be held on October 17 and 18 and the third Annual Roar N Soar will be held on November 7 and 8. The facility is open daily from 10 to 5 with the exception of Christmas and Thanksgiving.

The next luncheon is October 16, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned with the Benediction given by Terry Carr.





Anne Isley and Anita Harrow



Bill and Lenore Binzer



Ed Lillich with Jamie Tacy from Fantasy of Flight Guest Speaker



Charlie Parsons



Cal Imboden



Bobbi Walters



Dick Koch and Brother in Law David Drake



Faye and H. B. Love



Fran Shivers and Janice Morgan



Penny and Bill Eisenhart



Johnnie Neville and Violet Smith



John and Margie Milford



Sherry and Don Freese



Stew Palmer

Photos by Bill Lofgren





FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY

The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our country was originally founded. The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country in uniform.

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood: for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served Under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

Legislature, from Pg 5

obligation to those who have suffered the brunt of wartime sacrifice.

"We need to create a system [not just in the military and the VA, but] throughout America that sustains their needs for the to turn research into implementable solutions...I've pledged to do all I can to avoid creating another generation of homeless veterans. Shame on us if we don't make sure that happens."

LTG Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, highlighted the need to provide help for children of the deployed and wounded, who often experience suppressed and confusing fear and anger. For servicemembers, "Every returning soldier has suffered stress," he said. "Counseling should be mandatory, not voluntary." He is working to create "virtual installations" to assist families in areas with significant military populations but no military installation.

Assistant VA Secretary Tammy Duckworth, a medically retired Army helicopter pilot who lost both legs and partial use of one arm in Iraq, said, "On any given night, there are 131,000 homeless veterans on the streets of America, and we're all dishonored by that." Duckworth said the VA is making a special focus on mental health outreach (including a 24/7 chat line to improve access to therapists), accelerated disability

Banquet Masters

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Freese, Donald CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Landers, Joan Mrs.
Lofgren, William Col
Lorence, Marie LTC
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Munchbach, Rose LTC
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Albert Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Parsons, Charles Col
Patton, Jim CWO4

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Peck, Earl Maj Gen
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Christie, Robert LtCol
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Curren, Henry LT
Dawson, Peter Maj
Green, Richard CWO4
Lanier, Laurie Maj
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Simon, June Mrs.
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

October Birthdays

(63 to 97 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
08	Anderson	Robert	LCDR	USN (Ret)
27	Andrews	Carroll	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
14	Bell	James	Col	USMC (Ret)
12	Benson	D. Kay	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
05	Bischofs	Henriette	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
25	Broderick	Thomas	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
16	Brown	George	COL	USA (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)
09	Frasso	Edward	Mr.	AAF (Fmr)
21	Hoover	Richard	Capt	USAF (Fmr)
19	Kaiser	Martin	CDR	USCG (Ret)
24	MacPherson	Robert	Maj	USAF (Ret)
30	Monty	Dorothy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
16	Natzke	Richard	LTC	USA (Ret)
10	Packer	Patty	Capt	USAF (Fmr)
03	Polk	Bob	Col	USAF (Ret)
18	Reed	Dennie Sue	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
22	Simon	June	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
23	Spears	Anse 'Ed'	COL	USA (Ret)
02	Tomasulo	Michael	MAJ	USA (Ret)
29	Trahan	Creighton	LTC	USA (Ret)
30	Waugh	Frances	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
28	Westman	Jack	LT	USNR (Fmr)
01	Zurbrick	William	Capt	USAF (Ret)

2009 Help Our Troops Donors

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

••GOLD –

Barton, Ann Mrs.
Bischofs, Henriette Mrs.
Bolin, Bill CDR
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Freese, Donald CAPT
Gilchrist, Gary Lt Col
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Jessup, Jean Mrs
Kottich, Charles COL
Lofgren, William Col
Lorence, Marie LTC
Miller, Katherine Mrs.
Misuraca A. J. 1 Lt
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Albert Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Sims, Robert Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Talbitzer, John LT

Member donations ONLY:
\$1,932 as of 9/14/2009

•• SILVER –

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Burrell, Basil CWO4
Christie, Robert LtCol
Dawson, Peter Maj
Eynatten, Robert CAPT
Green, Richard CWO4
Lanier, Laurie Maj
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Milford, John Lt Col
Simon, June Mrs.

••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col
Balke, Dale COL
Cormier, Emery Maj
Dwyer, Thurm Col
Gottry, Catharine Mrs.
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Munchbach, Rose LTC
Tomasulo, Mike Maj
Tondreau, Herb CWO4
Trahan, Creighton LTC

2009 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors

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••GOLD –

Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Freese, Donald CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lillich, Ed MAJ
Lofgren, William Col
Lorence, Marie LTC
Love, H. B. COL
Miller, Katherine Mrs.
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Albert Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Sims, Robert Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Walters, Bobbie Mrs.

••SILVER –

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Burrell, Basil CWO4
Christie, Robert LtCol
Dawson, Peter Maj
Eynatten, Robert CAPT
Green, Richard CWO4
Shine, Jack Col

••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col
Cormier, Emery Maj
Lanier, Laurie Maj
Lorence, Marie LTC
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Simon, June Mrs.
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

Member donations ONLY:
\$1,369 as of 9/14/2009





President's, from Pg 1

If you cannot attend the October luncheon, but would like to make some phone calls to these prospective members, please let me know and I will mail or personally deliver a listing to you.

At the end of October, Barb and I will be heading to San Diego to attend the MOAA 2009 Annual Meeting. While there, it will be my honor to accept the 5-Star Award on behalf of our Chapter and each of you. As you know, we were awarded this prestigious award by MOAA for the 7th straight year, and 8 out of the last 9 years.

There are some upcoming events that will effect each of us.

First, in the November edition of *Officers Call*, we will have a ballot for the election of officers for the 2010 calendar year. When you get that slate, please vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible.

Second, our installation banquet is rapidly approaching. We will begin taking reservations with the November Officers Call.

The 2010 Installation Banquet will be held at the Bayou Club on 16 January 2010. Details will follow, but please mark your calendar now and plan on attending this gala event. Our speaker for the banquet is Rear Admiral Tom Hall, USN (Ret).

Admiral Hall was our installation speaker several years ago and everyone thoroughly enjoyed his presentation.

The third event that is in the works is already underway. By now, you should have gotten your chapter 2010 dues notice. Along with the dues notice, is a datasheet with name, address, phone, etc., that is in our database.

Please review that information, correct if necessary, and send it back to us, along with your dues. That will ensure that you continue to receive the monthly *Officers Call* newsletters.

One final word--please renew early. In the long run, that will save us valuable funds by eliminating the need for us to send you a second notice.

See you at the October luncheon.

Larry



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Welcome Our New Members!

**Col William "Bill" Binzer, USAF (Ret) and
Lenore, 288 Beach Drive NE #10A, St
Petersburg, FL 33701, 727-895-1404**

Sick List

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

*In Hazels absence please contact CWO Jim
Patton 393-4160*

- **LTC Sarah Niblack, USA (Ret)**
Page 34, 2009 Directory
- **COL Roger Shields, USA (Ret)**
Page 39, 2009 Directory
- **LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN (Ret)**
Page 32, 2009 Directory
- **COL Landy Nelson, USA (Ret)**
Page 33 2009 Directory
- **Mrs Barbara Nelson**
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TAPS

- **WO Arthur H. Cushing, USCG (Ret), 3**
March 2009, Page 22, 2009 Directory
 - **Mrs. Esther Misuraca, Spouse of 1st Lt**
Angelo J., 9 August 2009, Page 32, 2009
Directory
 - **Mrs. Grace Palsha, Spouse of LTC Robert**
J., 11 September 2009, Page 35, 2009
Directory
 - **LTC Ludwig Matkovich, USA (Ret), 15**
September 2009, Page 31, 2009 Directory
- Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.

Financial Report Summary for the Month of August 2009

Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ (775.24)
..... Donations	\$ 150.00
..... Ad Income	\$ 0.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$ (350.75)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ (975.99)

HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$2,868.05
..... Donations	\$ 230.00
..... Expenses	\$ 00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$3,098.05

Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$4,081.41
..... Donations	\$ 330.00
..... Memorials	\$ 30.00
..... 50/50 Income	\$ 37.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$4,448.41

Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 2,223.37
..... Monthly Luncheon	\$ 685.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10	\$ 0.00
..... Miscellaneous Income	\$ 1.89
..... Luncheon Expense	\$ 590.00
..... Supplies & Non-recurring	\$ 142.91
..... Postage	\$ 13.95
..... Printing Expense	\$ 0.00
..... Memorials Expense	\$ 30.00
..... VA/JROTC	\$ 0.00
..... Misc Expenses	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 1,932.40





Next Meeting

WHEN: **16 OCT 2009**

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

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

SPEAKER: **SHERIFF JIM
COATS**



October Events:

1st: Homemade Cookies Day

12th: Columbus Day

13th: U. S. Army (Established 13 Oct 1775)

19th: Star Spangled Banner First Sung in 1814

LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, October 16th

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday Oct 14th

Your name: _____.

Each reservation \$12:

Roast Pork: _____

Lemon Crumb Scrod: _____

Cobb Salad: _____

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

LCDR Paul Finley, USN (Ret)

9800 Sago Pt Dr.

Largo, FL 33777

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

LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908 or

Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237



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Ed Lillich and Meredith
Crook with Birthday
Cake



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