



OFFICERS CALL

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



VOL. VI No. IX ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-06 ★★★★★ September 2008
Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!

President's Comments:

By now, those of you who receive the Officers Call by postal service have noticed the new change in our publication and have had a chance to “digest” the changes. Hopefully, you will agree with the very positive comments that we have gotten from a few folks. But, if not, that too is okay. In either case, though, please let me know what it is that you like or dislike about the new format. You can call or email me with your comments.



So, what else is new with the Chapter?

First, we are in a membership drive. Some of you have already gotten the first installment in that effort in the form of a letter from me asking you to consider converting your annual MOAA membership to that of a Life Membership. From my perspective, it only makes sense to be a Life Member, which is why I took that initiative many years ago.

The response to that first mailing was less than anticipated. As you can tell by the box on the last page, only 9 of the approximate 135 non-Life Members in our Chapter chose to convert. While disappointing, the effort did pay for itself and cover our costs in the form of bonuses paid to the Chapter by MOAA for each Life Member that we recruit. However, the goal is not to make money, but rather to inform each of you of the benefits of a Life Membership in MOAA, and to hope that you see these benefits as a plus in your life and convert your annual membership to a Life Membership.

The second mailing, which will hit the streets in the very near future, is to MOAA members in our area who are not members of a local Chapter. This letter will attempt to get these folks to join our Chapter and participate in our events. It is vitally important in MOAA's efforts with Congressional leaders that each MOAA member be affiliated with a local chapter. For instance, when MOAA lobbyists go to a Congressman's office to educate him or her on a particular issue, just saying that MOAA has 500 (for instance) members in that Congressman's district means very little if only 100 (for instance) are affiliated with the local

See President's, Pg 8

Our September Speaker: GERARDE C. DETORE

Although not born in the Canal Zone, “Gerry” did grow up there, arriving in 1946 when his father relocated from Pennsylvania. An Atlantic side boy, Gerry lived in 6 different houses and 3 different towns. Coco Solito, Coco Solo and Margarita were all places Gerry called home. Longing to go to the “States” like so many other Zonians did every so often, Gerry spent 1956 in Falls Church Virginia with an aunt before returning “home” to Coco Solito.

Gerry was active in sports while growing up and was a member of the Canal Zone All Star baseball team that went to Hershey Pennsylvania and won the National VFW Championship.

After graduating from high school in 1959 Gerry enlisted in the Air Force and spent more than 28 years roaming the world primarily in the field of communications and electronics. His dream of becoming an Air Force pilot was dashed when he flunked the Air Force Academy physical for not having 20/20 vision, but his drive and self determination resulted in his acquiring a civilian pilot's license after duty hours. He eventually went on to fly not only civilian aircraft but the Air Force's F-111 fighter bomber and the OV-10 Forward Air Control plane. Gerry retired from the Air Force in 1988 as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander of Tactical Air Command's Communications Division.

Settling in Seminole, Florida, Gerry worked for E-Systems in St. Petersburg and more recently for Transitions Optical Inc. in Pinellas Park before “semi- retiring”. This allows Gerry to volunteer time at the Panama Canal Museum. He has learned more about his “home” in the Canal Zone in the almost 5 years at the Museum than he did in the 13 years growing up there.

In addition to helping out with accessioning, exhibit building and general operation of the Museum, Gerry enthusiastically serves as a docent and gives lectures and power point presentations in the Museum and at various locations in the local communities. Gerry is also on the board of trustees and Collections Chair.

“World Class” and “Unbelievably Interesting, Informative and Fun” are words that will describe the Panama Canal Museum if it gets the private, organizational and governmental support Gerry is looking for. His wish for the future? A grand opening of the New Panama Canal Museum on the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal.



Officers Call



Print media winner-2006

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AND Life Members Emeritus **AND** Past Presidents

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 323
 Regular Members - 234
 Auxillary Members - 89
 Inactive Members - (4)

Military Services:

Army - 83 USMC - 13
 USAF - 77 USCG - 8
 Navy - 52 NOAA - 1

8/19/2008

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

CALENDAR

September 19th, Friday, 11:00 Mr. Gerry DeTore,
 Panama Canal

October 17th, Friday, 11:00 TBA

November 21st, Friday, 11:00 TBA

December 12th, Friday(Second Friday), 11:00 Toys
 for Tots

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

Call: CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637

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.

September 8th (Second Monday)

October 6th Monday

November 3rd Monday

December 1st Monday

January 5th Monday

ROWC

- **Luncheon** – (2nd Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30
 Reservations: LTC Rose Munchbach, 397-4146, or Bobby
 Walters, 595-4619 (luncheons resume in October)
- **Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

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

- Reservations: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or
 Margaret Peck 525-1588

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 en-
 large the pages and even selectively print out a page or more?
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To subscribe to the electronic version of *Officers Call*, and
 save valuable funds for your Chapter, call me at 522-6237.



From Investor's Business Daily:

No one likes war. War is a horrific affair, bloody and expensive. Sending our men and women into battle to perhaps die or be maimed is an unconscionable thought.

Yet some wars need to be waged, and someone needs to lead.

The citizenry and Congress are often ambivalent or largely opposed to any given war. It's up to our leader to convince them. That's why we call the leader 'Commander in Chief.'

George W.'s war was no different. There was lots of resistance to it. Many in Congress were vehemently against the idea. The Commander in Chief had to lobby for legislative approval.

Along with supporters, George W. used the force of his convictions, the power of his title and every ounce of moral suasion he could muster to rally support. He had to assure Congress and the public that the war was morally justified, winnable and affordable. Congress eventually came around and voted overwhelmingly to wage war.

George W. then lobbied foreign governments for support. But in the end, only one European nation helped us. The rest of the world sat on its hands and watched.

After a few quick victories, things started to go bad. There were many dark days when all the news was discouraging. Casualties began to mount. It became obvious that our forces were too small. Congress began to drag its feet about funding the effort.

Many who had voted to support the war just a few years earlier were beginning to speak against it and accuse the Commander in Chief of misleading them. Many critics began to call him incompetent, an idiot and even a liar. Journalists joined the negative chorus with a vengeance.

As the war entered its fourth year, the public began to grow weary of the conflict and the casualties. George W.'s popularity plummeted. Yet through it all, he stood firm, supporting the troops and endorsing the struggle.

Without his unwavering support, the war would have surely ended, then and there, in overwhelming and total defeat.

At this darkest of times, he began to make some changes. More troops were added and trained. Some advisers were shuffled, and new generals installed.

Then, unexpectedly and gradually, things began to improve. Now it was the enemy that appeared to be growing weary of the lengthy conflict and losing support. Victories began to come, and hope returned.

Many critics in Congress and the press said the improvements were just George W.'s good luck. The progress, they said, would be temporary. He knew, however, that in warfare good fortune counts.

Then, in the unlikeliest of circumstances and perhaps the most historic example of military luck, the enemy blundered and was resoundingly defeated. After six long years of war, the Com-

mander in Chief basked in a most hard-fought victory.

So on that historic day, Oct. 19, 1781, in a place called Yorktown, a satisfied George Washington sat upon his beautiful white horse and accepted the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, effectively ending the Revolutionary War.

Veterans History Project allows people to share experiences

SAN ANTONIO (AFRNS) -- The Veterans History Project collects and preserves the remembrances of American war veterans and civilian workers who supported them. These collections of first-hand accounts are archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

The program is designed to preserve the legacies of America's aging veterans who are dying at the rate of about 1,500 a day.

"Getting these oral histories now is important, because once they are gone, their stories are gone forever," said Steve Hollingshead from the Department of Veterans Affairs' Media Services Division.

The project collects remembrances of veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War (1990-1995), or Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present). Citizen civilians who actively supported war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, defense contractors, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

Interviews taped through the program go on file at the Library of Congress, where they are available for researchers, and the veteran gets a personal DVD copy, Mr. Hollingshead explained.

But while the program initially focused on older veterans, Mr. Hollingshead said, he is increasingly seeing veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan participating in the project.

The younger veterans' stories are different from those of earlier generations, Mr. Hollingshead said. They served in different wars, carrying out different missions and applying different kinds of warfare. Their wounds are different today, with traumatic brain injuries and amputations more prevalent than in the past.

But despite these differences, Mr. Hollingshead said, he sees a common thread among the veterans he interviews. Whether they served in World War I or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or in some conflict in between, all recognize that "they were there, fighting for their country," he said.

See Veterans History, Pg 5





Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 9 June 2008

Reported by **Chris Lillich, Acting Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by First Vice President Ed Lillich at 11:36 a.m. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and Ed Lillich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 20 present including members and guests: George Brown, Basil Burrell, Pete Dawson, Fred Edwards, Pauline Edwards, Bill Eisenhart, Bob Eynatten, Paul Finley, Don Freese, Brent Gudmundson, Ed Lillich, Chris Lillich, Marie Lorence, Hazel McGrath, Janice Mogan, Al Neville, Stew Palmer, Violet Smith, Terry Carr, and Sherry Freese.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Officers Call.

Pete Dawson gave the Treasurer's report and it was accepted as presented.

In August LTC Petrucci, from the Civil Air Patrol will be the speaker; Dr. Gino DeTore will be the speaker in September and will have a program on the Panama Canal. In October, Professor Rose is scheduled but it is not firmed up at this time and in November Colonel, MSC, Dennis Beatty, MacDill Hospital Commander, will be the speaker. Ed asked that if anyone has suggestions or contacts to please let him know as we need new programs. The first meeting in January 2009 will be the installation on the 17th. LTC Andrew Allen, a former Astronaut has been invited to speak.

Janice Mogan, 2nd V.P. said she, Don Freese and Ron Merritt met to go over some prospects that they are going to request to support the convention souvenir program and it is going very well.

Don Freese reported on Membership Initiative. All the life membership mailing is out and he is a little disappointed in the response. From the 140 that were mailed he has received only seven positive responses. Don reminded the members of the Give- Me- Ten program. If we can sign up a person who is a national member but not a Chapter member, we receive ten dollars and if we get them to convert from annual national member to life national member we receive twenty dollars. So far this year we have signed up 19 new annual members, 15 of whom are life members. After we have signed up ten members we get an additional \$100, so that means we have earned about \$440.00, In the 3 years we have been in the program we have reached over \$1000.00 in income. We still have 124 members in our Chapter who are not life members. The 340 piece mailing to MOAA members in Pinellas County who are not Chapter members will go out this month. We only need 5 to 8 new members to pay for the mailing.

Regarding the Officers Call and our trial with the new printing service in Sarasota, Al Neville pointed out that the paper is of higher quality than we have been getting and there is color on pages 1, 6, 7, and 12. We are getting this printed and mailed for essentially the same price we were paying Sir Speedy, who was

offered the opportunity to match the price, but could not do so. Al also pointed out that there is a bar code over the printed name which guarantees that bulk mailing can be handled properly. Turn around with the new printer was more than acceptable. Al Neville made a motion that we accept the new vendor. Fred Edwards seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Stew Palmer passed out the Scholarship Fund Brochure from MOAA, a summary of which will appear in the OC. Dallas McCall, our last years scholarship recipient has been selected to receive this years scholarship.

Don Freese reported that Larry has arranged for a limo to pick up those that are going on the cruise either at their home or near their home. The limo will be around \$90 to \$100 per person.

Don reported that everything regarding the convention is going very well. The new printer in Sarasota e-mailed Don a quote of less than \$700.00 for 250 copies, which is less than half of what we paid for the 2006 booklet. Register now and we will bill you in February; if you are staying at the Sirata, reserve now and be charged when you check in. Lt Gen Allen G. Peck will be the Military Ball speaker.

JROTC: Nothing to report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Violet Smith announced that she sent condolence cards to two widows, followed up with them and will have another follow up in the near future.

Hazel McGrath reported that Jane Vernon would like to be called. Contact Jean Butler through Violet Smith. Hazel reports that Ed McCormick is doing well. Also, deputies are needed at Bay Pines. We can earn 25 volunteer credits for each one, so sign up. Steve Starwick is in a nursing home at Freedom Square. Joan Landers and COL Ed Speers are on the sick list.

Ed Lillich pointed out that there is an Honor Guard who will do services anytime, even after an earlier burial when last honors were not given.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pauline Edwards modeled the convention shirt and has ordered the first 36. The shirts cost \$40.00 each. Please contact Pauline at 727-360-2936 or pauline@tampabay.rr.com to order your shirt.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Chaplain George Brown gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Law of Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of the act performed.

Law of Gravity: Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.



MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by Don Freese from MOAA and other sources

Legislative Alert September 2008

COLA Watch

Inflation continued its upward trend in July, increasing over June's value by 0.5%. This puts cumulative inflation at 6.2% since October.

The July consumer price index (CPI) is the first month used in calculating the annual COLA payable in January. That means that even if there's no inflation throughout August and September, the COLA would be 6.2%.

That would be the highest annual COLA since 1982 (8.7%).

Grassroots Report Card

MOAA members are among the most reliable and active of any association. You have helped our "One Powerful Voice" influence legislation by contacting your legislators with 277,000 messages sent to Congress so far this year on a variety of issues through MOAA's Web site, surpassing last year's total of 240,000 messages with 83,000 asking Congress to avert the 10.6% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to providers.

August is a slow month with Congress out of session, but when they return, they'll be working on the FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill. MOAA will continue to need your support to affect change on important issues such as eliminating the offset of retired pay by VA disability compensation, ending unfair deductions in benefits for survivors of disabled service members, improving retirement benefits for the Guard and reserve, securing career enhancement support for spouses, improving PCS payments, and avoiding disproportionate TRICARE fee hikes for retirees under age 65, among others.

Congressman Bill Young

Congressman Bill Young has launched a new website with valuable and interesting information. Visit <http://www.house.gov/young> and let Congressman Young know what you think.

Post-9/11 GI Bill Questions and Answers

1. Who is eligible? Service men and women who have active duty service of at least 90 days since Sept. 10, 2001 qualify for benefits.

2. Are military retirees and National Guard/Reserve service members eligible? Yes, if they have post-Sept. 10, 2001 federal active duty service of at least 90 days.

3. Can currently serving members transfer benefits to family members? Yes, if they have at least six years of service, and agree to extend their service for four years may be eligible to transfer their benefits to a spouse and/or dependent children subject to DOD regulations. Only currently serving members

who agree to reenlist/extend after August 1, 2009 will be eligible. Critical skill criteria no longer apply to the transferability program.

4. Will veterans, including military retirees, be permitted to transfer benefits to dependents? No, transferability is a force management tool that works just like a reenlistment bonus.

5. Are Service Academy/ROTC Scholarship commissioned officers eligible? Yes, but, time spent satisfying their initial active duty service obligation does not count towards the service necessary to qualify for the benefits.

6. How does the Post-9/11 GI Bill compare to the current Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)? The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays benefits based on active duty service performed after Sept. 10, 2001. Benefits are tailored to a veteran's specific school and location. MGIB benefits, on the other hand, are elective upon enlistment and require a \$1,200 payroll reduction. MGIB rates are based on the enlistment contract and the course load taken regardless of the institution's tuition/fees and location.

Veterans History, From Pg 3

"All of them love their country and are here for all the right reasons," Mr. Hollingshead said. "The patriotism you see in these people is just phenomenal."

All Americans, including students and grandchildren, can participate in documenting the lives of the nation's war veterans, Mr. Hollingshead said.

The history project relies on volunteers throughout the nation to collect veterans' stories on behalf of the Library of Congress. These stories are made available to researchers and the general public, both at the library in Washington and via the VHP Web site at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>.

The U.S. Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The authorizing legislation (Public Law 106-380), sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President Clinton in October 2000. (Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service, contributed to this article.)



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October 2008



Luncheon Meeting; 15 August 2008

Reported by Basil Burrell

Attended – 61: (66 reservations), 33 Members, 6 Auxiliaries, 14 Spouses, 6 Member Guests, 2 Chapter Guests
[3 Walk-ins, 3 No-shows, 5 Cancellations]

After a pleasant social hour President Larry Fernald called the meeting to order and asked Don Freese to deliver the Invocation. Then Larry led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and Country. Larry gave the mike to Don Freese who introduced a new member Katherine Gottry. Kay is a bridge player. He then introduced CAPT Slim Russell USN(Ret) who is here with LtCol Dick Petrucci of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Dick is a retired Navy Captain who took a demotion to join the CAP. Slim Russell was on the old USS SARATOGA that was torpedoed at the battle of MIDWAY and he ended up flying with Marines at the battle of Guadalcanal. An interesting life to say the least. Welcome to Slim Russell and Dick Petrucci who are here to tell us about the Civil Air Patrol today. Al Neville then introduced his sister Ellen Hart from northern Virginia. I understand that she helped raise Al, and I don't know what we can infer from that. Just kidding Al. Teri and Bob Trudell introduced their guests, Ed and Claire Borkowski. Don then reminded us that the 2009 Florida Council of Chapters Convention is coming up next June. It may seem like a long time off, but you know how time flies when you are having fun. So make your reservations with the Sirata Beach Resort and with Don for the Convention affairs. If you make your hotel reservations now you can be assured of a room and your credit card won't be billed until next May which leaves time to cancel in the event of that necessity. Pauline Edwards has convention shirts for sale and can order any number you may need. Fred was wearing one of the shirts today and told us how soft the pima cotton was and that anyone was welcome to feel it. Margaret Peck had to be restrained because she was so eager to feel the shirt on Fred's body!

Larry spoke of the need for people to sign up for the Military Message Center (MMC). He then asked Fred Edwards and Brent Gudmondson to come up for the presentation of the Communications award from MOAA. Brent and Fred were responsible for setting up the MMC and they worked very hard on the project. Their work has been cited by MOAA for its originality and quality. Larry spoke of our new printing service for Officers Call and how good the results are. The same company was asked to quote a price on our Convention catalog. They were also asked to print sample copies of our 2006 Convention catalog for comparison. They printed 12 sample copies and they



were excellent. Best of all, their price for the Convention 2009 catalog is about one third (1/3) of the price we paid for the 2006 catalog. We are now receiving Officers Call with two pages of color additional with no increase in price over our previous printer.

Larry announced that Maggie Eynatten was in the Hospital and is due to be released today. In Maggie's absence, Anita Harrow will do the door prize drawings today. Today is Sherry Freese's birthday and she won an equity distribution prize. A spontaneous rendition of "Happy Birthday" erupted. Hopefully, we won't have to pay the copyright owner for the song! Anita Harrow needs some help with Help Our Troops. Some items such as baby wipes and candy and cookies are in demand. The scholarship program is going well. We have started another \$25,000.00 program. We received a "Thank you" card from Dallas McCall who received an award this year. He was also last years winner. Larry recessed the meeting for lunch.

Don took up the meeting and announced that our speaker, Dick Petrucci, was a class of 61 Naval Academy graduate while Don was a 63 class graduate. The gist of this is that Don was a lowly plebe while Dick was an upper classman. I think that this also means that Don was taught proper discipline and Navy ways from Dick's class mates. Don then introduced Dick Pretucci. Dick said that he enjoys speaking to groups because he gets a free lunch. Dick said that he wanted to fly so much that he willingly took a demotion to become a member of CAP. and he hasn't looked back. The CAP rules say that a former military person assumes the same rank in CAP as he had in the military with an exception. An O6 in the military has to accept a reduction unless he can fill a Colonel slot in the CAP. This is not usually available so we become a LtCol in the CAP. He had a few remarks about the former army Major who took some delight in demoting him. Dick explained that the mission of the CAP is to help America and that the CAP is an Air Force Auxiliary. The CAP has their own planes and are reimbursed some expenses for flying missions and training flights. The CAP has a Cadet program for young people from 12 to 21 years of age. Dick went on to speak of the organization and capabilities of the CAP. After some questions Dick returned the program to Larry who then asked George Brown for the Benediction and closed the meeting.



Left: Brent Gudmondson and Fred Edwards, the creators of the Chapter Military Message Center, receive a MOAA award for their efforts.

Right: Bob Sims and Paulette Carr





New member, Kay Gottry



Dawn Johnson



Al Neville and his sister, Ellen Hart



Lt Col Dick Petrucci, Civil Air Patrol, and CAPT, USN (Ret), our guest speaker



Marie Lorence



Slim Russell, CAP



Mike Vision



Larry and Barb Fernald



Dick Koch



Gloria Dirdner and Ed Riley



Bill Lofgren



Maureen and Ed Connors



The Buzz

Chapter Happenings and Items of Interest

Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret)

522-6237 or Larry246MOAA@sprynet.com

■ **INTEREST FREE COLLEGE LOANS:** Since 1948, nearly 10,000 children of military personnel—officer and enlisted— have benefited from The MOAA Scholarship Fund which provides interest free loans and grants to students for up to five years of undergraduate study at an accredited 2 or 4 year college or university of their choice.

Students (under age 24), who are children of former, active or retired officers or active or retired enlisted personnel, are eligible to apply. Qualified students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are selected on the basis of their scholastic ability, activities and financial need.

Applications for the 2008 -09 school year are available on line beginning in early November at www.moaa.org/education. Completed applications must be received by Noon, 1 March 2009, EST.

If you have questions, contact edassist@moaa.org or 1-800-234-6622.

■ **ROWCLUNCHEONS WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2008.**

PLACE: Wine Cellar, 17307 Gulf Blvd. North Redington Beach, FL

TIME: 1130 hrs.

PROGRAM: Jack Harris, Radio Personality

HUSBANDS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED

Please note that donations will be collected for our annual charity: OPERATION WARM HEART

For more information regarding Operation Warm Heart, contact Peg Cowardin, 727-596-1265

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED: call: LTC Rose Munchbach, USA (Ret), at 727-397-4146 or Bobby Walters at 727-595-4619.

Luncheons for ROWC are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from October through May.

■ At the July luncheon, **Don Freese** presented the Chapter a United States Flag given to us by his son, **Marc Freese** (Major, USMCR), which flew over Camp Fallujah, Iraq, during Marc's deployment there with the 2nd Intelligence Battalion. The Flag will be appropriately encased, along with the certificate, and will be displayed at Chapter luncheons and meetings.

Law of the Alibi: If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

President's, from Pg 1

Chapter. The higher the percentage of Chapter members to MOAA members, the greater the Congressman listens, since he or she now knows that those Chapter members are voters and are active in MOAA affairs.

I'll be sure to let you know the results of our attempts to get more Chapter members.

Along those same lines, we need to increase attendance at our monthly luncheons. Typically, we have in the 50 to 70 range of attendees. While this is good, one would expect a larger turnout given that the Chapter size is over 300. We have top notch, interesting speakers on a large variety of topics. And, of course, the food is great and also a real bargain (I can personally attest to that fact, since I visit other Chapters on the Florida West Coast).

To end this, I'll give you a short list of things that you can do to help the Chapter grow.

1. Consider (or reconsider) converting to Life Membership from annual MOAA membership
2. Encourage your military friends to join our Chapter and boost MOAA's leverage with Congress
3. Attend, along with your military friends, Chapter luncheons and, if you choose, increase your participation in Chapter events.

See you at the luncheon on the 19th of September (there's a reservation form on the back cover of this edition).

Law of Physical Surfaces: The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

Law of the Theater: At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

grow financially!

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**Financial Report
for the
Month of July 2008**

Officers Call Boosters

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$ 967.14
Donations.....	\$ 00.00
Advertising Income.....	\$ 00.00
Printing Expenses.....	\$ 00.00
Postage Expenses.....	\$ 00.00
Balance, End of Month.....	\$ 967.14

HOT Fund

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$3,687.30
Donations.....	\$ 85.00
50/50 Income.....	\$ 35.00
Balance, End of Month.....	\$3,807.30

Scholarship Fund

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$ 152.41
Donations.....	\$ 00.00
Memorials	\$ 60.00
Balance, End of Month.....	\$ 212.41

Operating Account

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$1,059.45
Monthly Luncheon.....	\$ 497.00
Dues/Give Me 10.....	\$ 00.00
Miscellaneous Income.....	\$ 27.00
Luncheon Expense.....	\$ 500.00
Supplies Expense.....	\$ 32.00
Postage Expense.....	\$ 00.00
Printing Expense.....	\$ 00.00
Memorials Expense.....	\$ 60.00
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$ 25.00
Balance, End of Month.....	\$ 991.45

VA offers new online resource service

SAN ANTONIO (AFRNS) – The Department of Veterans Affairs is offering a new online service, My HealthVet, which is a gateway to veteran health benefits and services.

It provides access to: trusted health information; links to federal and VA benefits and resources; the Personal Health Journal; and online VA prescription refill service.

In the future, MHV registrants will be able to view appointments, co-pay balances, and key portions of their VA medical records online.

My HealthVet is a powerful tool to help veterans better understand and manage their health, according to VA officials.

The Web site also features a section called “Learn About” which provides resources on a variety of topics such as computers, the Internet, phishing scams and telephone scams. Health information from A to Z plus medical dictionaries, an encyclopedia, journals, and more will be available soon.

To visit the My HealthVet site, go to www.myhealth.va.gov/

Sick List

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

- * **LtCol Fred Edwards**, USMC (Ret)
Page 23, 2008 Directory
- * **CWO4 Robert E. Hodgen**, USAF (Ret)
Page 27, 2008 Directory
- * **LTC Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)
Page 35, 2008 Directory
- * **Col Rod Bricker**, USAF (Ret)
Page 18, 2008 Directory
- * **Joan Landers**, AuxMbr-A
Page 31, 2008 Directory
- * **LTC Rose Munchbach**, USA (Ret)
Page 34, 2008 Directory
- * **COL Ed Spears**, USA (Ret)
Page 42, 2008 Directory

Law of the Bath: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings

Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with

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TAPS

Mrs Jean "Bobbie" Ford,
AuxMbr, USA

9 August 2008

2008 Directory, Page 24

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends.

2008 Help Our Troops Donors

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

••GOLD –
Barton, Ann Mrs.
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Don CAPT
Finley, Paul LCDR
Gilchrist, Gary Lt Col
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Hodgen, Rober CWO4
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Jessup, John COL
Kottich, Charles COL
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Al Col
Nolan, Richard Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen

Harrow, Anita Mrs.
Lorence, Marie LTC
Milford, John Lt Col
Poteat, Genevieve Mrs.
Secor, Madeline Mrs.
Shine, Jack Col
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••BRONZE –
Edwards, Fred LtCol
Landers, Joan Mrs.
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Merritt, Ron COL
Shields, Roger COL
Weatherby, Shirley Lt Col

••SILVER –
Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Eisenhart, Bill Col
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Green, Richard CWO4

**\$490 (50/50, Non-Chaper
members, including ROWC
& Mil. Widows)**

Total \$1,832 as of 8/19/2008



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2008 *Officers Call* BOOSTER Donors

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

••GOLD –
Burrell, Basil WO4
Freese, Donald CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lorence, Marie LTC
Love, HB COL
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Al Col
Nolan, Richard Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Green, Richard CWO4
Harrow, Anita Mrs.
Milford, John Lt Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••BRONZE –
Edwards, Fred LtCol
Lanier, Laurie Maj

••SILVER –

\$717 as of 8/19/2008

The Starbucks Law: As soon as you sit down with a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold

The Variation Law: If you change lines or traffic lanes, the one you were in will always move faster than the one that you are now in





WELCOME OUR new members!

- **Mrs Catherine "Kay" Gottry**, AuxMbr-A, 7881 Balboa Lane, Clearwater, FL 33756, 727-585-1726
- **Mrs Bernice Keene**, AuxMbr-A, 4357 50th Avenue South, St Petersburg, FL 33711, 727-864-0139
- **Mrs Teri Reed**, AuxMbr-AF, 1770 Arabian Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685, 727-789-5080

Law of Logical Argument: Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about

Law of Physical Appearance: If the shoe fits, it's ugly



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Thru Feb 2009

September Birthdays

(68 to 99 years)

17	Biggerstaff, Dorothy	Mrs.	AuxLifeMbr-A
07	Blaskovitz, Joseph	CWO4	USA (Ret)
25	Briggs, David	COL	USA (Ret)
02	Burrell, Basil	CWO4	USCG (Ret)
22	Conneely, Anita	Mrs.	AuxLifeMbr-A
20	Connors, Maureen	CDR	USN (Ret)
27	Crook, Meredith	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
21	DeArment, Harold	COL	USA (Ret)
29	Fisher, Wayne	CWO	USCG (Ret)
08	Fowler, Wilma	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
21	Fox, Marjorie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
08	Hintze, Carl	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
29	Hoffman, Elizabeth	Capt	USAF (Frm)
24	Houser, Richard	MAJ	USA (Ret)
19	Lanier, Laurie	Maj	USAF (Ret)
01	Layton, Thomas	CAPT	USN (Ret)
25	Love, Heilbron	COL	USA (Ret)
20	Marine, Lois	Mrs.	AuxMbr
30	May, Harold	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
04	Misuraca, Angelo	1st Lt	USAF (Ret)
13	Mogan, Janice	LTC	USA (Ret)
17	Morgan, William	LCDR	USN (Ret)
22	Phillips, Helen	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
29	Polk, Clifford	Maj	USAF (Ret)
05	Riley, Evan	LTC	USA (Ret)
11	Robertson, George	Col	USAF (Ret)
13	Rutledge, Virginia	Mrs.	AuxMbr-MC
06	Shepard, Walter	COL	USA (Ret)
06	Smith, Paul	BG	USA (Ret)
02	Stickney, Maurice	LT	USN (Ret)
18	Sumpter, Martha	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
26	Warner, Nita Bob	LtCol	USMC (Ret)
27	Williams, Frances	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
10	Workman, Virginia	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N

2008 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

••GOLD –

Barton, Ann Mrs.
Bischofs, Henny Mrs.
Burrell, Basil WO4
Edwards, Fred LtCol
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Don CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Harrow, Anita Mrs.
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lorence, Maria LTC
Love, HB COL
Milford, John Lt Col
Nelson, Landy, COL
Neville, Al Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen

Smith, Violet Mrs.

••SILVER –

Nolan, Richard Col

••BRONZE –

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Brink, Charles LtCdr
Eisenhart, Bill Col
Green, Richard CWO4
Nelson, Tony LTC
Polk, Clif, Maj
Simmons, Don CWO4

**Includes \$200 from the ROWC)
\$2,245 as of 8/19/2008**

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Your name: _____

Each reservation \$11:

Chicken Marsala: _____

Tillapia Piccata: _____

Cobb Salad: _____

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call either:**

CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637 or

Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237



MOAA LIFE MEMBER UPGRADES

In addition to those reported in last months *Officers Call*, the following Chapter Members also converted to MOAA national Life Members.

- COL Ron Merritt, USA (Ret)
- COL Charles Kottich, USA (Ret)
- CAPT Richard Shutt, USN (Ret)
- Lt Col John Milford, USAF (Ret)
- LTC Michael Brown, USA (Ret)
- LCDR John Rothfuss, USNR (Ret)
- Maj Bob Sims, USMC (Ret)
- Capt Dick Hoover, USAF (Fmr)

When you convert to Life Membership through the Chapter program, you save 10% and you will also receive a refund check for the prorated portion of your current annual national dues; your new Life dues can be paid in ten monthly installments.

Questions: Don Freese, 727-360-3102, or Janice Mogan, 727-381-3997.