



# OFFICERS CALL

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



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

## President's Comments:

To begin, please join us at our 18 September luncheon where we will celebrate the 100th birthday of Auxiliary Member, Mrs. Meredith Crook.



Beginning with the next *Officers Call*, you will see a difference dictated by the Post Office. In its infinite wisdom, the Post Office folks have dictated that we increase the weight of the first sheet of the *Officers Call* to prevent jamming in their sorting machines. They have also dictated that we increase the number of tabs used to stick the folded halves together. And, as is typical, they did not include a provision to re-pay us for the added costs incurred in meeting their demands.



Meredith Crook

Our printer, Creative Technology of Sarasota, Inc., is exploring the issue and will recommend the best solution to us.

Therefore, next month's edition may feel different with the added weight and increased tabs, or possibly arrive in an envelope. Whichever the case, please look carefully at your mail during the last week in September to make sure you do not accidentally toss the *Officers Call*.

Another change coming in the area of the *Officers Call* is that after nearly two years, I am going to be replaced by an even better editor--CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG (Ret). Jim and I got together during the layout phase of this edition, and I can assure you that he is very enthusiastic and looking forward to taking over the duties. And, I can also assure you that Jim is more than capable and will do an outstanding job!

Now, on to other events.

We are (belatedly, due to the Convention) beginning our annual new member mailing campaign. There are 495 letters going out to MOAA members who are not chapter members (282), auxiliary MOAA members who are not chapter members (121), and lapsed MOAA members who are not chapter members (92). That is nearly half of the folks in our area, from a list supplied by MOAA, who are eligible to join the chapter, and represents

## Our September Speaker will be from:



From a static display of a B-17 to flights in open cockpit bi-planes, to Mustangs, to Steermans, to hot-air balloon rides, there is something for everyone.

**Please fly your flag on September 11th, the 8th anniversary of the attack on America.**

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those with the greatest chance of joining our chapter.

The payback point will be when 10% of those potential members join. And, if some of those convert to MOAA Life Membership, we will get another bonus from MOAA.

So, the key to our membership drive, and to the life of our Chapter, is to get new members....and new members who will

**See President's, Pg 10**



# Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up - 2008

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### DIRECTORS

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

### EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

<b>2009 —</b>	
COL Ron Merritt, USA .....	397-9809
CDR Maureen Conners, USN .....	347-7976
Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMember-N .....	347-3730
<b>2009 &amp; 2010 —</b>	
CDR Bill Bolin, USN .....	584-1595
LT Ed Conners, USN .....	347-7976
Mrs. Barbara Walters, AuxMember-A .....	595-4619
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	
CAPT Don Freese, USN .....	360-3102

### 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
Electronic Info .....	Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF .....	522-6237
Historian: .....	LTC Marie Lorence, USA .....	595-1342
JROTC .....	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA .....	546-2246
Law: .....	CAPT Don Freese, USN .....	360-3102
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 - 310  
 Regular Members - 225  
 Auxiliary Members - 85  
 Inactive Members - (6)

### Military Services:

Army - 72	USMC - 16
USAF - 76	USCG - 9
Navy - 52	NOAA - 0

8/22/2009

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

## CALENDAR

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: Fantasy of Flight

**October 16<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: TBD

**November 20<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: TBD

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

**Call: LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908**

**or Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237**

**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.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** Tuesday

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** Monday

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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:** (1<sup>st</sup> 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.



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



## DoD to Remove SSNs from ID Cards

The Department of Defense announced that it will begin removing social security numbers from all ID cards, for both active duty and retired military members and spouses. Social Security numbers will no longer be relied upon for unique ID numbers.

This change is being made to protect the identity information of military and spouse members in this age of identity theft.

Changes to ID cards will be made when the cardholder's expired cards are due for renewal, and will occur in three phases.

■ Phase One: Remove dependent social security numbers. This will begin by the end of calendar year 2008 (already in progress).

■ Phase Two: Remove printed social security numbers from all cards, except Geneva Convention ID cards, which will have the last four digits of the social security number. This will begin by the end of calendar year 2009.

■ Phase Three: Remove social security numbers embedded in barcodes on the back of ID cards. This phase will begin during calendar year 2012.

(Bet you did not know your social security number was embedded in the bar code on the back of your ID card.)

### Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who does this affect?

All DoD ID cardholders.

2. Should I go now to renew?

No. Only go when you need to renew your ID card. If you are a retiree with an indefinite expiration date and wish to replace your card with one without your social security number, the earliest you may do so is January 2010.

3. Where should I go to renew?

In our case (the St Petersburg area), MacDill AFB Pass and ID office. In addition to the following numbers for the **Pass and ID office** at MacDill, please note that an additional number has been added for your convenience and a new service implemented. This new number and service will allow you to reserve a time and date for ID card service--in other words, make an appointment rather than having to go and wait your turn (Not many folks are availing themselves of this service. I called on a Monday and had a choice of 8 appointment times the very next day.)

DEERS/Pass & ID: 813-828-2276 or 2278

Appointments: 813-828-1988

DEERS only: 800-538-9552

4. What should I bring?

Two forms of ID. One must be a federal or state issued photo ID.

## MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

By Violet Smith

MOAA is a passion...that is exactly how we members of the MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) think and feel.

The committee members have been very busy with many projects. We have been recruiting auxiliary liaisons throughout the country. Over 264 communications to MOAA Chapter Presidents have been made in the past 60 days alone.

We are seeking to have an Auxiliary Liaison in each MOAA Chapter. It has not happened as yet, but we are well on our way to achieving that goal. We are also eager to have more surviving spouses join as MOAA members.

We have also been working on a program whereby an annual excellence award will be established for Auxiliary Liaisons. We hope to have all the details in place by October. Who knows, you the reader, may well be the recipient of such an award. We shall keep you posted.

When AMAC was established in 2004, the three R's were considered our mission; Recruiting, Retention and Representation. Recruiting is one of the most difficult. It takes time and effort and the need to put one's best foot forward, to market and sell to our readers that which we so strongly believe in.

Won't you, as Auxiliary Liaisons help us? You can be recruiters in your area and join us in feeling this passion for MOAA, a great organization celebrating 80 years.

Let us all give MOAA a special birthday gift this year by seeking out the surviving spouses of Military Officers who were MOAA members, or were eligible to become MOAA members. They are out there in your community. You can find them in your church and social groups, even when you do your shopping. Speak up whenever you can about MOAA, what it has meant to you and what it can mean to the surviving spouses who have not yet joined this special organization.

Show your personal commitment by encouraging others to come forth, become members and wish MOAA a happy 80th birthday.

Let's make this happen before the year is out.

As always, you can contact AMAC by emailing [auxcomm@moaa.org](mailto:auxcomm@moaa.org).

*Editors Note: Mrs. Violet Smith, Auxiliary Member (Army), and a member of our Chapter, has been a vital part of the MOAA Auxiliary effort for many years. She has been instrumental in many of the initiatives that MOAA has undertaken on behalf of Auxiliary Members. Violet is completing her sixth and final year as the co-chair of the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee. She is to be commended for her efforts on behalf of all of us!*





## Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 3 August 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, Basil Burrell, Ed Connors, Pete Dawson, Fred Edwards, Bill Eisenhart, Larry Fernald, Paul Finley, Anita Harrow, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Hazel McGrath, Stew Palmer, Jim Patton and Violet Smith. Anita made a motion to accept the July Meeting as printed, seconded by Pete Dawson. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The July financial report was presented by Pete Dawson. In addition to a full report of the account, the treasurer stated that our miscellaneous income is higher because we are selling some of the left over items from the convention. The full financial report is found elsewhere in the *Officers Call*. Paul Finley moved that the Treasurers report be accepted as presented, seconded by Fred Edwards. Larry Fernald will close out the convention report and deposit any balance into the money market.

**First Vice President:** The program for September will be Fantasy of Flight and Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young is tentatively scheduled for the October 16 luncheon meeting. Professor Rose will be the speaker in November.

**Second Vice President:** Larry reported that second vice president Terry Carr was recovering from surgery and therefore had no report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**H.O.T.** Anita reported that there is a lot of movement going on with the troops in Iraq which is creating some problems for us as far as some boxes being returned to us, but the contents from all boxes that have been returned will be used again in future mailings. Anita is holding future mailings until she gets firm addresses and no boxes were sent in July. COL Walters notified Anita that he would forward a new address in the near future. Three boxes from Afghanistan and one from the Marine unit in addition to a letter have been returned. Anita thinks there may be two more boxes returned. Larry Fernald has e-mailed an Air Force officer to request additional addresses but to date has not had a response. Ed Connors has a contact at CENTCOM and he will ask for some names of commanders in Afghanistan. The Rays gave Larry some Rays baseballs which Anita will use in the future mailings. Members have been bringing in dental supplies from their dentists, but Anita could use more toothpaste and brushes.

**Scholarship:** Stew Palmer reported that we have been given the name of Michael Pierce as our new scholarship recipient. The club will try to get Michael and Phillip Costa, our last recipient, to one of our luncheon meetings.

**Luncheon Reservations:** Paul Finley asked that all checks in payment of the luncheon be made payable to SPA-MOAA. We will have a sign made to that effect to be displayed at sign-in.

**Nominating:** Bill Lofgren, Chairman of the nominating committee, thanked Fred Edwards, Earl Peck, and Violet Smith for their participation in selecting the nominees for the new term.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Larry Fernald passed around copies of the convention after action report sent to Troy Scott, Don Freese and Ron Buchert. Ed Lillich commended Larry on the professionalism of the after action report and entire board voiced their approval.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Lofgren read the names of the nominees for the coming year to be presented to the membership at the November luncheon. Election will be held in December.

### 2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD (Proposed)

President	MAJ Edward R. Lillich, USA (Ret)
First Vice President	LTC Terry R. Carr, USA (Ret)
Second Vice President	No nominee named at this time
Secretary	Mrs. Chris Lillich, Spouse
Treasurer	Maj Peter J. Dawson, USAF (Ret)
Past President	Lt Col Larry N. Fernald, USAF (Ret)

### ADVISORY BOARD 2010-2012

Col William W. Lofgren, Jr., USAF (Ret)  
1LT Hazel J. Murphy, RN, USANC (Frm)  
Mrs. Johnnie Neville, AuxMbr-AF

### ADVISORY BOARD 2009-2010

CDR William C. Bolin, Sr., USNR (Ret)  
CDR Maureen A. Connors, USN (Ret)  
Mrs. Barbara G. Walters, AuxMbr-A

Larry thanked Bill Lofgren and his committee for their diligence in filling the above slate. He stated that this is the earliest a full slate has been submitted.

**Officers Call:** Jim Patton has agreed to take over as Editor of the *Officers Call*. Larry thanked Jim and vowed all the help he could give him during the transition.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion took place regarding walk-ins for the luncheon as this sometimes causes a problem with the caterers having enough food. All members are urged to make a reservation for the luncheon since we have had instances where some who have made reservations in advance were denied their selected entree

**See EC Meeting, Pg 11**





## MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

### **\$50 Military Widows: A National Embarrassment**

**By Col. Steve Strobbridge, USAF-Ret.**

For years, MOAA has pushed the cause of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) widows whose sponsors' deaths were caused by military service.

Those 54,000 survivors receive about \$1,150 a month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA. But that amount is deducted from SBP annuities and wipes out SBP in many cases.

MOAA says DIC should be added to a survivor's SBP annuity — not subtracted from it — when military service caused the death.

Before the current leadership team won control of the House, they espoused a "GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century," which highlighted this "widow's tax" and pledged its repeal.

The FY 2008 Defense Authorization Act formally acknowledged the inequity and authorized these widows a \$50-a-month Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (growing to \$100 a month over five years) as a "modest" first step toward resolving the inequity.

Modest indeed; most affected widows deemed it a slap in the face, considering it offset less than 5 percent of their financial loss.

Hill leaders' rationale for not providing more was the difficulty of finding offsetting cost savings to fund a larger amount within congressional budget rules.

While deeply disappointed, MOAA took heart that Congress finally had acknowledged the inequity and pledged to do more.

But our disappointment deepened last year when the FY 2009 Defense Authorization Act produced no further progress.

This spring, House Armed Services Chair Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) put a provision in a tobacco bill that would have increased the allowance to \$95 in 2010 and to \$345 by 2013. But even that small adjustment was slashed and deferred in the final bill (to \$150 in FY 2014, growing to \$310 in 2017).

There's one more hope this year, because Sen. Bill Nelson's (D-Fla.) amendment to the Senate-passed Defense Authorization Act (S. 1390) would eliminate the offset.

But Nelson won a similar provision last year only to see it dropped during House-Senate negotiations — again because of the lack of cost offsets.

So many think the stage is set for another disappointment for military widows this year.

MOAA can't accept that.

We understand the Armed Services committees don't have authority to waive budget rules. When they do identify some

possible cost offset, they face hard choices between helping widows, disabled retirees, or some other deserving group.

But top Hill leaders have come through on other provisions of the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century — including a dramatic VA funding hike and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

They didn't worry about cost offsets for the huge GI Bill price tag or the hundreds of billions for stimulus/bailout legislation. And they're talking about waiving cost offset requirements for hundreds of billions more in Medicare payment reforms.

But they say they can't waive those requirements for military widows' relief costing less than \$7 billion over 10 years.

As of early August, a majority of U.S. representatives (281) and 52 senators formally have endorsed ending the "widow's tax." So why isn't it happening?

Hill leaders' selective application of budget offset rules yields an ironic and maddening situation.

The government that caused the servicemembers' deaths deducts \$1,150 a month from survivors' SBP annuities and offers them a \$50 rebate.

It's a national embarrassment.

*PS: Senator Nelson's amendment was passed and included in the Senate version of the 2010 Defense Authorization Bill which now has to be reconciled with the House version.*

### **MOAA Opposes Photo Release**

On August 13, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) signed letters to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) urging them to bring the Detainee Photographic Records Protection Act (S. 1285/H.R. 2875) before the House of Representatives for a vote.

This legislation, passed by the Senate in June, would authorize the Secretary of Defense to bar release of detainee photographs under the Freedom of Information Act, provided the Secretary certifies to the President that disclosure would endanger US citizens or members of the armed forces or US employees deployed outside the US.

President Obama has asserted he will use every means at his disposal to prevent such disclosure, and efforts by some to use the courts to force disclosure have been stymied so far.

During Admiral Ryan's trips to Iraq, he was advised by senior US commanders that disclosure of detainees' photos would inflame the opposition and make US troops significantly more vulnerable to retaliatory violence.

MOAA believes strongly that the Secretary of Defense, with proper certification, should have statutory authority to deny release of photographic documents when release would significantly increase risks for US forces.

This is not a partisan issue. It has the support of the Commander in Chief, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and already has been approved by the full United States Senate.

You can help this important cause by urging your U.S. Representative's support to bring the matter before the House.





## Monthly Luncheon; 21 August 2009

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

**Attended – 63:** (60 reservations), 2 Member Guest,  
3 Chapter Guest  
[6 Walk-in, 3 No-show]

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

The August business meeting was opened by President Larry Fernald at 11:45 a.m. The invocation was given by First Vice President Ed Lillich and Larry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry announced that 495 letters are at the printer and will be sent to 282 MOAA members who are not Chapter members, 121 Auxillary members who are MOAA members but not Chapter members and 92 MOAA members whose memberships have recently lapsed. A Chapter dues renewal drive will start in October 2009.

The door prize was won by John Talibitzer. In addition there were three drawings for boxes of fudge donated by Larry Butterfield. Winners of the fudge were Dot Plummer, Thurm Dwyer and Michael Melvan. Winners of the 50/50 were Tootie Larkin, Anne Isley, and Carroll Andrews.

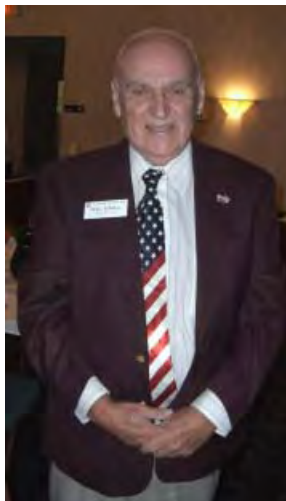
Larry read a letter from VADM Ryan exalting our accomplishments and congratulating us on winning the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award.

Larry also read a letter from our Chapter Designated Scholar for 2009-2010, Michael Pierce. Mr. Pierce reports: "I will be attending University of South Florida majoring in Chemical Engineering. Currently, I am involved with the University Marching Band, playing the piccolo. In addition, I am a student member of American Institute of Chemical Engineers and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International). I am bilingual in English and Japanese. In using my language skills, I would like to obtain a career with an international corporation doing research in nanotechnology and alternate fuel sources."

The Chapter has already completed one scholarship of \$25,000 and is now working on a second.

Anita Harrow thanked everyone for their generosity in donating money and items for the boxes she sends to the troops. One hundred twenty five troops have been served this year thus far. Three of the units we regularly serve have come home and two will be moving and she is waiting for new addresses before sending more boxes to them.

Larry was overwhelmed and overtaxed to find that two small boxes he anticipated picking up at the Rays Office turned out to be a huge box which contained 144 baseballs with the Devil



Ray's logo printed on them. Definitely a collector's item. These baseballs were given to Anita to include in the boxes.

Basil Burrell, our designated photographer and usual writer of this article had the misfortune of fracturing his left ankle. He underwent surgery this past Tues and now his ankle is welded together with plates and screws. Basil is in good spirits and looking good. We all wish Basil a speedy recovery.

Meredith Crook, Auxiliary member, joined us today. Meredith will celebrate her 100th birthday on September 27, 2009. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEREDITH!!!! If all of us could be as perky and happy as Meredith we should all want to live to be a hundred.

She promises to be at the meeting in September and we will have a birthday cake for her.

Meredith is quite a kidder too – she said "bring lots of presents."

After a break for lunch First Vice President Ed introduced our speaker COL Sharon Richie-Melvan, USA (Ret). COL Sharon Richie-Melvan retired in 1996 as the Chief Nurse, D.D. Eisenhower Medical Center / SE Health Services Support Area, having previously served as Chief Nurse at Ft Meade and Letterman in San Francisco. She introduced her guests, her husband Michael "Mike" Melvan, who is known as "Web Wizard" and her friend and an Auxillary member of the Citrus County Chapter of MOAA, Butch Schultz. COL Sharon Richie-Melvan serves as Secretary of the Citrus County Veterans Foundation and is a member of the Florida Veteran's Foundation (FVA). She also Serves on the board of directors of the national Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation.

The FVA is comprised of a volunteer board of 8 directors approved by the State Legislature.

Florida has more Veterans Homes than any other State and everyone is encouraged to take a tour of one of these facilities. Each facility is very well appointed and gives the Veteran a pleasing area to go to. The first home was established in Daytona Beach. The newest home opens in Tallahassee in September, and is a 52 bed home.

Maj Gen Earl Peck was very instrumental in getting the first home up and running. It takes a lot of money to operate these homes and unfortunately budgeted funds have been decreased. Money raised from non-appropriated funds include contributions from businesses/corporations, philanthropic foundations and private citizens, including veteran donations. COL Richie-Melvan stressed that the voices of the Florida MOAA are very important to obtaining funding and she urges everyone to send cards and letters to his/her representative in Washington.

COL Richie-Melvan also stressed that the suicide rate is very high among the military and veterans. There are Veterans Resiliency Programs in place to help the veterans overcome some of the difficulties that occur in their lives while they are overseas. Sometimes the problems are family oriented concerning spouses, children or other problems in the family home and the multiple

**See Luncheon, Pg 10**





Our August speaker, COL Sharon Richie-Melvan, USA (Ret), and husband, Michael (R), and Butch Schultz (L)



Janice Mogan, Tootie Larkin, and Fran Shivers



Nurses in Attendance



Anita Harrow and Bobbie Walters



Joanne Taylor, Van and Carol Barnes



Bill and Lynn Bolin



Charles Hundley



Bill Lee



Elsie Robertson



Anne Isley and Pauline Edwards



Gary Gilchrist



Fred Edwards



Earl Peck



Above Right: Paul and Connie Smith



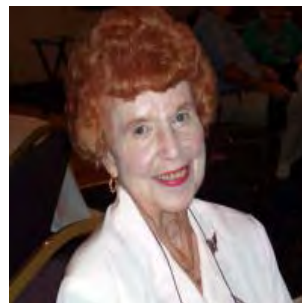
Larry and Debbie Butterfield



Margaret Peck



Above: Barb Fernald; Above Right: Ed and Chris Lillich; and Right: Hennie Bischofs



Photos by Larry





## New AMC Web Site Offers Space-Available Travel Info

by Mark Diamond

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFRNS) -- Air Mobility Command here recently unveiled its first official, command-level AMC Travel Web site.

People planning to travel the AMC military travel system can now point their Web browsers to [www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp](http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp) for the latest in AMC travel information.

The site, which officially went live July 24, offers prospective space-available travelers a wealth of information, including an updated AMC passenger terminal contact list (complete with phone, e-mail and Web links), and more than a dozen travel documents, example letters and brochures.

Every day around the world, hundreds of military and military-contracted commercial aircraft travel the world delivering troops and cargo. And each year, hundreds of thousands of military personnel, retirees, and their family members go along for the ride, courtesy of the AMC space-available travel program.

Space-available flights, also known as "military hops," are a unique benefit to U.S. servicemembers, retirees and their families. Under the AMC travel program, unused seats on U.S. military and military-contracted aircraft are made available to non-duty passengers on a space-available basis (once space-required or official-duty passengers and cargo have been accommodated).

According to one AMC travel expert, the AMC Travel Web site was created simply because "AMC customers deserve it."

"(The AMC Travel) site was created to provide our customers a wealth of AMC travel information, which can be counted on to contain the most accurate and up-to-date travel information available," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Katsonis of the AMC passenger policy branch. "Our customers deserved a Web site where they can obtain travel information that is correct, up to date and validated by AMC. This Web site will give them that."

Sergeant Katsonis said AMC officials understand the massive amount of anxiety and stress felt by space-required and space-available travelers.

"Our goal is that this site will answer any questions the passengers will have, therefore minimizing their stress before they leave their homes," he said.

In the past, prospective space-available passengers frequently turned to one of several AMC headquarters offices in search of travel information. Sergeant Katsonis said although headquarters personnel are trained to respond to these public queries, he hopes the new Web site will provide all their information and more. Additionally, he said trained passenger service agents at AMC terminals worldwide are standing by to assist. People searching for up-to-the-minute AMC travel information are encouraged to contact their nearest AMC passenger terminal. A

current listing is available on the new AMC Travel site.

Another benefit of the new AMC Travel site is that it will be updated with the latest breaking news and updates.

Department of Defense officials now allow unaccompanied travel by dependents when the military spouse is deployed on contingency/exercise/deployment orders, also known as CED orders. According to Sergeant Katsonis, when the deployment is for 120 days or more, unaccompanied travel is authorized in category IV; and for deployments of 366 days or more, unaccompanied travel is authorized in the bottom of category III.

Sergeant Katsonis said he wants people to know that space-available travel is a great benefit, but it can be a stressful experience without the proper planning.

"AMC never guarantees travel, and passengers need to be prepared for their (space-available) trip to take more time than it would were they traveling commercial," the sergeant said.

He added that not every base is equipped with facilities or lodging capable of handling passengers stranded by a broken or rerouted aircraft.

"The most important thing to remember when traveling Space-A is be prepared to fly commercial if problems are encountered" Sergeant Katsonis said. "The key to a stress-free trip is to have a plan. Have enough money for all contingencies, and be mentally prepared for disappointment when plans don't come together." (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

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Barton, Ann Mrs.  
Burrell, Basil CWO4  
Edwards, Fred LtCol  
Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Finley, J. Paul, LCDR  
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen  
Freese, Donald CAPT  
Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
Isley, Anne Mrs.  
Landers, Joan Mrs.  
Lofgren, William Col  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
Love, H. B. COL  
Munchbach, Rose LTC  
Nelson, Landy COL  
Neville, Albert Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Parsons, Charles Col  
Patton, Jim CWO4

Member donations ONLY:  
\$3,226.00 as of 8/21/2009

Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Sims, Robert Maj  
Smith, Violet Mrs.  
Spears, Anse COL  
Talbitzer, John LT

### ••SILVER –

Christie, Robert LtCol  
Conners, Ed LT  
Gottry, Catharine Mrs.  
Jessup, Jean Mrs.

### ••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col  
Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
Cormier, Emery Maj  
Curren, Henry LT  
Dawson, Peter Maj  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Lanier, Laurie Maj  
McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
Simon, June Mrs.  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

## September Birthdays

(59 to 100 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
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	Conners	Maureen	CDR	USN (Ret)
04	Cornelius	Bernard	CW4	USA (Ret)
27	Crook	Meredith	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
21	DeArment	Harold	COL	USA (Ret)
08	Fowler	Wilma	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
08	Hintze	Carl	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
29	Hoffman	Elizabeth	Capt	USAF (Frm)
19	Lanier	Laurie	Maj	USAF (Ret)
01	Layton	Thomas	CAPT	USN (Ret)
13	Lee	William	LCDR	USN (Ret)
25	Love	Heilbron	COL	USA (Ret)
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)
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
27	Williams	Frances	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N

## 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.  
Kottich, Charles COL  
Lofgren, William Col  
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:  
\$1,852 as of 8/21/2009

### ••SILVER –

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
Burrell, Basil CWO4  
Christie, Robert LtCol  
Dawson, Peter Maj  
Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Lanier, Laurie Maj  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
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

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

### ••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 8/21/2009





**President's, from Pg 1**

participate in the Chapter.

If you are contacted by any of your military friends in the area about joining, please be an ambassador for the Chapter and try to get them involved.

All of us play an important part in the life and vitality of the Chapter.

I will be starting the dues renewal process in early October when I get back from an FB-111 Reunion in Ft. Worth, TX. So, be looking for your dues renewal notice in the mail, and please help us out by responding early in the process rather than later. Not having to send out second notices saves us all money that we can use more effectively elsewhere.

My apologies to Meredith Crook. I have another commitment on the 18th and will not be at her 100th birthday celebration, so I'll say it early: **HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MEREDITH!!**

*Larry*

**Luncheon, from Pg 6**

deployments many military face. MOAA has lobbied to have 40,000 more troops added to the budget and it has been done.

Sweet Bay Grocery Stores has implemented a program of selling Honor Guards (a pound of coffee) and all profit goes to the

Veteran's Foundation. This helps support the FL Veterans Mobile Service Center which provides medical and dental care, goes to parks where homeless Vets hang out, provides soaps and other hygiene products, supports child care for children 5 years and younger, and locates schools for children over five in order for visiting spouses and veterans to be able to visit alone. Grants are also given to veterans to rent or purchase a home during the 60 to 90 days while awaiting pension and disability distribution. For more information on this program visit HonorGuards.com.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the benediction by Ed Lillich.



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## Welcome Our New Members!

- \* **Mrs. Joanna Kilroy,**  
AuxMbr-AF, Page 34, 2009 Directory
- \* **CDR Victor Wood, USN (Ret), and Beryl,** 510 Harbor Drive N., Indian Rocks Beach, FL, 33785, 727 593-8131

### EC Meeting; From Pg 4

due to too many walk-ins. Your compliance with making reservations would be very much appreciated by all.

There being no further business, Ed Lillich gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



## TAPS

- **Mrs. Dorothy Biggerstaff,**  
LifeAuxMbr-A, 10 July 2009, Page 17, 2009 Directory

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.

### Sick List

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

- \* **LTC Sarah Niblack, USA (Ret)**  
Page 34, 2009 Directory
- \* **COL Roger Shields, USA (Ret)**  
Page 39, 2009 Directory

### Financial Report Summary for the Month of July 2009

#### Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ (312.83)
..... Donations .....	\$ 40.00
..... Ad Income .....	\$ (120.00)
..... Postage & Printing Expenses .....	\$ (382.41)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ (775.24)

#### HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 2,769.05
..... Donations .....	\$ 99.00
..... Expenses .....	\$ 00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 2,868.05

#### Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 3,821.41
..... Donations and 50/50 .....	\$ 170.00
..... Memorials .....	\$ 60.00
..... 50/50 Income .....	\$ 30.00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 4,081.41

#### Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 2,159.23
..... Monthly Luncheon .....	\$ 608.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10 .....	\$ 25.00
..... Miscellaneous Income .....	\$ 172.59
..... Luncheon Expense .....	\$ 610.00
..... Supplies & Non-recurring .....	\$ 00
..... Postage .....	\$ 00
..... Printing Expense .....	\$ 00
..... Memorials Expense .....	\$ 60.00
..... VA/JROTC .....	\$ 00
..... Misc Expenses .....	\$ 24.00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 2,025.08

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## Next Meeting

WHEN: **18 SEP 2009**

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

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

SPEAKER: **FANTASY OF  
FLIGHT**



### September Events:

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Uncle Sam's Birthday--Uncle Sam's image first used on this day in 1813
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Labor Day
- 18<sup>th</sup>: U. S. Air Force (Established 18 Sept 1947)
- 24<sup>th</sup>: National Blue Bird of Happiness Day

### LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, September 18<sup>th</sup>

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• **Reservations by Wednesday Sep 16<sup>th</sup>**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Each reservation \$12:**

Chicken Marsala: \_\_\_\_\_

Tillapia Piccata: \_\_\_\_\_

Cobb Salad: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**9800 Sago Pt Dr.**

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

**LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908 or**

**Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237**