

# OFFICERS CALL

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



VOL III No IX ★★★★★ **Five Star Chapter - 2002, 03 & 04** ★★★★★ September 2005  
**Winner** 2003 Newsletter Contest–Print & Electronic Media & Web Site !!

## Amanda G. Smith, M.D.

### USF Suncoast Alzheimer’s & Gerontology Center

Amanda Smith, M.D. is an Assistant Professor in the USF Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and is Assistant Director of the USF Suncoast Alzheimer’s and Gerontology Center, working closely with its founding director, Dr. Eric Pfeiffer. She graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, GA and received her M.D. degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. She completed her internship, residency in psychiatry, and fellowship in geriatric psychiatry at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL.



Dr. Smith is board-certified in psychiatry with added qualifications in geriatric psychiatry. She is a member of the Florida Psychiatric Society, American Psychiatric Association, the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, and the International Psychogeriatric Association. In 2001, she won the John Adams award from the Florida Psychiatric Society.

Dr. Smith has been involved with many Alzheimer’s disease research studies. She has published in several scientific journals on topics related to mental health and given numerous lectures on topics related to Alzheimer’s disease and other areas of geriatric psychiatry. She is involved in the education of the USF medical students and resident physicians, and sits on several committees within the USF Department of Psychiatry and the College of Medicine. She is very active in the Center’s caregiver education programs as well as their fundraising efforts, including the Athletes Against Alzheimer’s Disease™ and Warriors Against Alzheimer’s campaigns.

Uno ab alto

See back page for translation

## President’s Message

My message is simple: Thank you, Carroll and Louann. We love you!



There is some exciting news to report. Our Chapter has been issued a CHALLENGE. The MOAA Board of Directors has organized a contest called “Give Me Ten”. Every Chapter has been challenged to recruit ten new MOAA members. The goal is to recruit 4200 new MOAA members nationwide between September 01 and December 31 2005. Highlights of the contest are:

- Each new member recruited will pay dues for one year and receive two years membership.
- A Chapter will receive \$10.00 for each new member recruited and a \$100.00 bonus for the first ten new members.
- Chapters are entered into one of ten categories.
- The Chapter in each category with the most new members recruited will receive \$1,000.00.
- The names of all recruiters will be entered in a drawing. The winner will receive \$1000.00
- The names of all new members will be entered in a sweepstakes and the winner will receive a MOAA Life Membership and \$500.00.

I have committed our Chapter to this contest and will receive a kit of marketing materials to aid us in the contest. If you would like to assist me in this important endeavor, please call me. Let’s win this contest.

**Paul Finley**



MAJ Joe Lyon, August speaker, & President Paul Finley



## Officers Call

Published Monthly by The St Petersburg Chapter, MOAA, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7054 St Petersburg FL 33734

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Articles in *Officers Call* are the sole opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policies or the opinions of the publisher. Mailed as third class mail at the St Petersburg Post Office, Permit #1533. Printed by Sir Speedy, St Pete Beach, FL.

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VA Vol Svc ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN ..... 545-3884  
Vet Liaison ..... LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC ..... 360-2936  
Visitation ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN ..... 545-3884

AND: Life Members Emeritus, Past Presidents

## Chapter Statistics

TOTAL Membership - 337  
General Members - 244  
Special Members - 93

#### Military Services:

Army - 88                      USMC - 14  
USAF - 82                      USCG - 9  
Navy - 51

## From the Editor COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)



**Congratulations** – To all our Air Force friends on the anniversary of the founding of the Air Force in 1947. Thanks to Maj Gen **Earl Peck** for researching and submitting his history of the Air Force. In current history, the newest fighter coming into the inventory is the F-22 Raptor. In one recent demonstration of capabilities, an F-22 destroyed (simulated) six F-15s. The F-15 pilots and the search radar never detected the Raptor!

**The Winner Is** – Our St Petersburg Chapter, MOAA is awarded five stars – an outstanding chapter for Year 2004! The award is recognition for our members who worked so hard and who were willing to do the necessary. Our thanks to all.

**Kudos** – To Col **Bill Eisenhart** whose excellent recruiting letter featuring our MOAA Chapter has appeared numerous times in the local area newspapers. Go get ‘em, Bill!

**Treachery** - This is a follow up to MOAA Legislative Update, August 12, 2005, regarding Sen. John Warner’s amendment, SA 1598, which substitutes language that directs the Veterans Disability Commission to study the SBP-DIC offset and deletes language that would accelerate the effective date of paid-up SBP to October 1, 2005. If passed, Sen. Warner’s amendment would delay actions on the two SBP issues at least a year, and deny Sen. Bill Nelson’s amendment to correct the inequity that now deducts DIC survivor benefits from military SBP annuities and causes those paying SBP premiums since 1972 to pay up to one-third more premiums than those who retire after 1978. Now is the time to call on your Senators to take action to vote against Sen. Warner’s amendment and to pass Sen. Nelson’s amendment to correct these two SBP inequities. The following are two prepared messages for your use: one to Senator Martinez and one to Senator Bill Nelson.

You can copy and paste the message for Sen. Martinez by going to <<http://martinez.senate.gov>> Then at top right side-Click on “Contact Information.” When gray box appears, Click on “Email Senator Martinez.” For Sen. Nelson go to <<http://billnelson.senate.gov>> At top right side-Click on “Send Bill an e-mail.” (MOAA)

**Officer’s Call Content** – What should we publish in your newsletter, Officer’s Call? Please tell us and please submit your articles to us.

We hope that you prefer upbeat articles, humor and legislation that affects your life. Your war stories are welcome. **RJS**

### 2006 membership renew is NOW!

October 1<sup>st</sup>, your chapter will send you your 2006 personalized membership renewal form. It indicates your dues amount. Also included is your database record for your approval or correction. And, a return addressed envelope for Your prompt attention to this would be greatly appreciated.

Detailed information in the October Officers Call.



# U.S. Air Force—Genesis

## Maj Gen Earl G. Peck, USAF (Ret)

The National Security Act of July 26, 1947, culminated forty years of airpower evolution by creating the United States Air Force effective September 18, 1947. President Harry S Truman formalized the process with Executive Order Number 9877 to established an independent Air Force (USAF) with its own Department and Secretary and on a par with the Department of the Army and the Department of the Navy. President Truman signed the legislation on board the Presidential Plane “Sacred Cow,” an Army Air Forces C-54. The Act also created the Office of the Secretary of National Defense under which the three coequal services were placed.

W. Stuart Symington was appointed the first Secretary of the Air Force on September 18, 1947, and General Carl A Spaatz became the first Air Force Chief of Staff on September 26, 1947. James Forrestal became the first Secretary of Defense.

It had been a long, arduous, and sometimes acrimonious evolutionary journey to reach that glorious day in 1947. Even before the advent of powered aircraft, the U.S. Army had used balloons as observation platforms in both the Civil War in the 1860s (Balloon Corps of the Army of the Potomac) and in the Spanish-American War in Cuba in 1898. A Balloon Section was established as part of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in 1892. The Wright brothers powered flight precipitated the real beginning of military airpower in the United States with the establishment of an Aeronautical Division within Signal Corps to be “in charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects.” In August of 1909 the Signal Corps accepted its first heavier-than-air mchine, the “improved” Wright Military Flyer (Signal Corps Aircraft 1), from the Wright brothers for \$30,000! Lieutenants Frank P. Lahm and Frederick E. Humphreys learned to fly it in 1909 as did Lieutenant Benjamin D. Foulois the following year.

The Aeronautical Division was followed by the Aviation Section in 1914 and the Army Air Service in 1918. A total of 45 American Squadrons were in action in France between March and November 1918, usually in direct support of ground forces. There were a few men on both sides of the Atlantic, however, with a much more visionary view of the potential uses for air power. In 1925 Billy Mitchell was court-martialled for insubordination and suspended from duty for five years; he had criticized his superiors once too often for their shortsightedness. It’s noteworthy that the Navy formed its own air arm shortly thereafter.

In 1926 the Air Service became the Army Air Corps and in 1941 the Army Air Forces. World

War II catapulted airpower into a place of prominence among war fighting capabilities which led directly to the post-war establishment of a separate Air Force. The relative inaccuracy of weapon delivery in those days led many skeptics to dismiss the efficacy of air power to be decisive, but the delivery of the nuclear devices on Hiroshima and Nagasaki proved instructive.

Sine then we have gone through limited struggles in Korea and Vietnam which proved little. But the incredible technological improvements in precision-guided munitions have finally begun to vindicate the great visionaries like Arnold, Foulois and Mitchell. During the first few days of our most recent effort in Iraq, John McCain remarked that “somewhere Billy Mitchell is smiling!” As Edward Teller told me once, “Accuracy is much more important than yield.” He has been proven correct.

So as we celebrate the Air Force birthday on September 18, let’s also celebrate all those whose dreams, sweat and toil made our modern United States Air Force a magnificent reality.



## PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS



From left: Captain Peck, Lieutenant Klecker, Lieutenant Gravette, and Lieutenant Smith.

### Crew of the Month

**T**HE B-47 CREW of Capt. Earl G. Peck, 509th BW, Pease AFB, has been selected SAC Crew of the Month in recognition of their performance in overcoming an in-flight fire. The crew includes 1/Lt William H. Klecker, copilot; 1/Lt James A. Gravette, navigator, and 1/Lt Raymond W. Smith, student copilot.

The flight proceeded normally through departure until, approaching 17,000 feet, Captain Peck smelled smoke and alerted the crew as Lieutenant Gravette reported fire aft of his seat.

Captain Peck immediately ordered 100 percent oxygen and “emergency,” and depressurized the aircraft. Lieutenant Smith was instructed to go forward to fight the fire, but failed to gain access to the blaze. Lieutenant Gravette then took the extinguisher and attempted to put the fire out, but was overcome by fumes.

The B-47 had lost both ADF and omni and the navigator had shut down radar. As the aircraft was still in the clouds, it was impossible to determine position. Although the cockpit was

filled with smoke and fumes, Captain Peck was unwilling to ventilate it as the collapse of the navigator had left the crew without knowledge as to the fire’s status. Lieutenant Smith, who was sent forward with two walkaround bottles to investigate and aid the navigator, reported the fire out and the revival of Lieutenant Gravette.

The AC then obtained a DF steer, broke out on top and, deciding that Lieutenant Gravette’s condition required a landing as quickly as possible, elected to land immediately. This decision was made despite adverse weather, the heavy weight of the aircraft, and lack of navigational radio aids.

Captain Peck rendezvoused with another B-47 and flew on its wing until safely under RApCon control at a nearby base. He then completed a safe landing under conditions of 1000 feet obscured, with two miles visibility in fog. Investigation revealed that the fire had been caused by a short in the windshield anti-ice heating unit.



## Chapter Luncheon, 19 August 2005

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

58 Attended (38 Mbrs, 11 Wives, 6 SpMbrs;  
2 Guest, 2 Walk-in, 3 No shows)

I believe we had the most interesting speaker so far this year in Major Joseph Lyon ARNG. He is recently back from a tour of duty in Al Ramadi, Iraq and he has been on active duty for the past 10 years. He served as a Company Commander of Infantry for 10 months at Al Ramadi and he has "seen it all." Those of you who took the time to read his bio in the August *Officers Call* know the details of his affiliation with Florida National Guard and his other vitals.

He is convinced that our soldiers today are as good as any and are highly motivated to do their jobs.

Major Lyon says that there are two problems at this time: How do you rebuild a country and how do you combat an insurgency at the same time. As an approximate time line, their first three months in Iraq were combating the Baathist party members of Saddam Hussein's regime; the next three months were fighting a divided Baathist fighters and foreign fighters while now the Baathist and foreign groups have combined forces to a great extent. He says that 99% of Iraqis want to rebuild their country and get on with their lives. Only about 1% of the people are insurgents and are causing the problems there. Of course, as we all know, a small minority of violent people can instill fear in a large majority of the population. He spoke of counter-insurgency operations de-

signed to improve the urban environment and government facilities. Our troops and Iraqi police have to get out among the people to effectively fight the insurgency. We have to protect commercial enterprises, and cultural facilities and mosques.

Our troops in Al Ramadi have rebuilt 14, that's right fourteen, schools and by acting as truant officers, have about 90% of the children attending schools. He said their truant officer operations included rounding up kids on the streets and taking them to their fathers who want their children educated. By the way, Al Ramadi is in part of what is known as the Sunni Triangle. Our troops in Al Ramadi repaired the water system so that water was available more than when Saddam was in charge. They also repaired the hospital cooling system and that is a necessary part of a hospital in the summer heat in that area.

Not only did they do all of this, they also trained police. Major Lyon's Iraqi colleague Col. Hamid, who was also a friend was killed by an explosion shortly after Major Lyon returned home.

The Florida National Guard consists of about 10,000 soldiers and airmen. In the past there has been difficulty in training these part-time troops and supply has been a problem. New procedures have helped alleviate the supply and equipment problems.

I am very pleased that we had the opportunity to meet and hear Major Lyon. Hopefully, he and his officers will take advantage of the free one year membership being offered by MOAA and will continue as members long after.



### SCHOLARSHIP FUND - 2005

\$875 — Through — 26 August 2005

Arnim, R., Mrs. SpMbr-A  
Barton, Ann, Mrs. SpMbr-A  
Burrell, Basil, CW4 USCG  
Dawson, Pete, Maj USAF  
Eisenhart, Bill, Col USAF  
Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN  
Gilchrist, Gary, Lt Col USAF  
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA  
Jessup, John, COL USA  
Kaiser, Martin, CDR USCG  
Kaniss, Charles, BG USA  
Lorence, Marie, LTC ISA  
Middlemas, John, MAJ USA  
Nelson, Landy, COL USA

Neville, Al, Col USAF  
Peck, Earl, Maj Gen USAF  
Shields, Roger COL USA  
Sipole, Eva, Mrs! SpMbr - A

**Memorial \$30 - Deceased Members —**  
Vernon, Eugene, CDR USN 1/16/05  
Cooning, Leon, Lt Col USAF 1/31/05  
D'Louny, George, LTC USA 2/13/05  
Neuer, Arthur, CPT USA 2/25/05  
Myers, Henry, LTC USA 3/2/05  
Waugh, Wm, COL USA 5/18/05  
McCarthy, Fred. C., Lt Col USAF 08/21/05





## The Buzz

COL Roger J. Shields

• **Important By-Laws Change** – Recommended By -Laws Modification proposals were mailed to each member recently. Most modifications represent grammatical error corrections and other relatively minor corrections. Most important is a proposal to include widows and widowers of deceased members as full members with all attendant privileges and rights, including the vote. The pertinent Section is quoted:

“Section 1. Subject to the provisions hereof, membership shall be composed of: (a) Men and women who are or have been officers – that is, commissioned officers, commissioned warrant officers, and warrant officers – of the regular, reserve, National Guard of the United States, and other components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service. (b) **Widows and widowers of deceased members or of any deceased individual who would, if living, be eligible for membership.**”

The date, time and place for our members to vote on the By Law modifications will be announced. We thank LtCol Fred Edwards, Jr., USMC (Ret) for his outstanding efforts in producing the suggested changes and modifications to our By Laws.

• **Chapter Elections** – Our Election Committee will soon practice “active listening” to your views and wishes as our chapter selection season starts this month. The final vote is taken at our December luncheon with the installation of officers to follow at the January, 2006 chapter meeting.

• **Brown Bag Campaign** – You may recall the campaign to get the attention of Congress to pass legislation to correct long standing injustices such as the “Widow’s Tax”. Over 51,000 brown bag messages have been sent to selected members of Congress thus far. Members of the House of Reps appear to have reacted favorably but the Senate is another story. Let’s continue to send our Brown Bag messages. To send them costs us little but to not send them may cost us a great deal. **RJS**

### Email Survivor Benefits Plan

President Bush, Senators Nelson, Martinez, Rep Young Benefits for federal workers are far outstripping those for military widows. Just when Senator Bill Nelson submits a fair and equitable solution via a proposed amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill, Senator John Warner sabotages his fix. Republican Senators support Pork and a bridge to nowhere in Alaska. President Bush ignores his responsibilities as a leader in a time of war. Do you addressees give a damn about our uniformed military and their survivors? If you do care, we veterans expect you to pressure John Warner to retract his morale-killer amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Shields, COL, USA(Ret)

## Winter Fund Raiser – Join our cruise and SEA our ScholarSHIP Swell!

Our baseball fundraiser is proving to be a great success and we don’t want to lose our momentum. The Holland America Line is donating



\$50.00 for each cabin sold on our February 25, 2006, seven day cruise on the MS Vendam. Leaving from Tampa, enjoy excitement and camaraderie as we visit Key West, Belize City, Santo Tomas, Guatemala, and Costa Maya, Mexico.

Holland America is a premium cruise line featuring outstanding service, quality amenities, fantastic food, exciting destinations and gracious surroundings. For singles, Holland America has professional dance hosts so no one feels left out of the evening festivities and we will make every attempt to find roommates for those who wish to share a cabin. Inside cabins begin at \$856.18 per person double occupancy and outside cabins begin at \$1021.18.

If interested, please contact Pat Tamalis at (727) 391-1066 or ptamalis@tampabay.rr.com. Remember, for every cabin booked, Holland America will donate \$50.00 to our scholarship fund!

### Share your active duty photos

From this issue on, we plan to include photos of our members’ active duty experiences. We can resize and enhance most photos and articles. Our September meetings would be a convenient time to bring your favorites – none in frames, please. We will scan and return them to you ASAP. Contact Al Neville, Roger Shields or Basil Burrell.

(Examples below and page 3)

Basil “at work” – he is at the right



Dec. 1959, in the desert about 250 miles west of Benghazi, Libya, checking field strength measurements of Loran-C transmissions.



## Minutes: Executive Committee Mtg St Petersburg Chapter, MOAA 1 August 2005

Meeting was called to order by the Chapter President, Paul Finley. Carroll Andrews read the Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was present.

Pat Tamalis discussed the status of convention plans, the stand at Tropicana Field and the opportunity to act as a sponsor for the Clearwater senior softball league. If we are to have convention/chapter shirts, someone needs to volunteer for the job. Pat will put a notice in the next newsletter to address this issue.

The President asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting. Moved by Violet Smith, seconded by Marie Lorence, passed. Financial report was reviewed by Pete Dawson. We are in good shape.

Carroll Andrews announced that he is resigning from the Nominating Committee for LMEs and DM, the position of Chaplain and Memorial Officer. The group noted his many accomplishments and thanked him for his many years of service to our Chapter. Violet Smith agreed to assume the duties as Memorial Officer.

Fred Edwards discussed a Notice of Proposed Modification to the Bylaws, specifically Article II-Membership and Voting Rights, Section 6. The change would add that "Special Members" will be entitled to vote on matters properly submitted to the membership vote. The notice will be placed in the next newsletter and voted on during the September 16, 2005 luncheon meeting. Fred Edwards made the motion to move this action forward, Mike Tomasulo seconded, passed.

Fred Edwards advised the board that November 11 is the date for the Seminole Veterans Day Parade and November 12 the City of Clearwater is holding a Veterans Appreciation Day. We may want to use this opportunity to do some recruiting for the Chapter. Fred also noted that he will no longer serve on the Pinellas County Veterans Liaison Committee and suggested that our chapter appoint four delegates to this organization.

Al Neville mentioned that we need to get people excited about contributing to the Scholarship Fund. We need to produce articles that shows members where the money has been spent, identifying names of recipients from Florida. Al also noted that dues notices will be mailed in October. There will also be an opportunity at this time to contribute to the Scholarship Fund. Violet Smith updated the board on the new hospital commander and the activities of the National spouse/special member committee. She recommended that during our October luncheon, when our speaker will be CAPT Bob Silah from the Tampa Chapter, we give CAPT Silah a check for \$500.00 for Operation Helping Hand using Chapter funds to cover the shortfall, if any, from the current collection efforts.

Carroll Andrews read the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned by the president.

— Pat Tamalis, 1<sup>st</sup> VP



## Welcome our new Member

Mrs. **Helen McCarthy**, SpMbr - Air Force  
For address, see Lt Col Fred. C. McCarthy,  
Page 34, 2005 Directory

## September Birthdays (From **55** to **96** years!)

Day	L NAME	F NAME	RANK	SVC
04	Apter, Barbara	Mrs.		SpMbr - A
25	Briggs, David	COL		USA (Ret)
02	Burrell, Basil	CWO4		USCG (Ret)
27	Crook, Meredith	Mrs.		SpMbr - A
29	Fisher, Wayne	CWO		USCG (Ret)
22	Ford, Jean	Mrs.		SpMbr - A
21	Fox, Marjorie	Mrs.		SpMbr - AF
08	Hintze, Carl	Lt Col		USAF (Ret)
29	Hoffman, Elizabeth	CPT		USAF (Fr)
24	Houser, Richard	MAJ		USA (Ret)
09	Hughes, James	MAJ		USA (Ret)
01	Layton, Thomas	CAPT		USN (Ret)
25	Love, Heilbron	COL		USA (Ret)
20	Marine, Lois	Mrs.		SpMbr
23	McCoy, Frederick	Col		USAF (Ret)
04	Misuraca, Angelo	1Lt		USAF (Ret)
13	Mogan, Janice	LTC		USA (Ret)
17	Morgan, William	LCDR		USN (Ret)
22	Phillips, Helen	Mrs.		SpMbr - AF
05	Riley, Evan	LTC		USA (Ret)
11	Robertson, George	Col		USAF (Ret)
13	Rutledge, Virginia	Mrs.		SpMbr - N
06	Shepard, Walter	COL		USA (Ret)
06	Smith, Paul	BG		USA (Ret)
02	Stickney, Maurice	LT		USN (Ret)
17	Taylor, Henry	Col		USAF (Ret)
26	Warner, Nita Bob	LtCol		USMC (Ret)
23	Whitehouse, Ollie	Maj		USAF (Ret)
27	Williams, Frances	Mrs.		SpMbr - N

## 2005 Officers Call BOOSTER

\$245 – Through — 6 July 2005

Arnim, Rosemary, SpMbr-A  
Bowley, Carl, Col USAF  
Burrell, Basil, CW4 USCG  
Cormier, Emery, Man USAF  
Dawson, Pete, Maj USAF  
Diedo, Ed, LTC USA  
Eisenhart, Bill, Col USAF  
Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN  
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA  
Harrow, Tom, CAPT USN

Kaiser, Martin, CDR USCG  
Kaniss, Charles, BG USA  
Lorence, Marie, LTC USA  
Middlemas, John, MAJ USA  
Nelson, Landy, COL USA  
Neville, Al, Col USAF  
Peck, Earl, Maj Gen USAF  
Shields, Roger, COL USA  
Smith, Violet, SpMbr - A  
Tondreau, Herbert, CWO4 USA





# Convention Planning Update

## Pat Tamalis, Convention Chairperson

Quietly, things are moving along in the planning process. A good plan at the beginning makes for an easier execution and people are beginning to pull together to make this the best convention in memory.

Jane Gaugh has volunteered to head up the Starlight Princess Lunch Tour and Pauline Edwards is working on our convention shirts and folders for our guests. Al Neville has spent hours updating the database of attendees from last year (a monumental effort), which will be the basis of our invitee list. Ed Kilroy found us an outstanding band for the Military Ball and has provided expert advice on handling all aspects of our programs. Jim Hughes is developing the Registration Form, a key task to ensure everyone and everything is accounted for. Victor Wood and his crew in Clearwater are creating a touching Memorial Service for the council and managing the All Hands Breakfast and council President's Reception as well. Tom Long from Clearwater is handling our publicity, writing articles for chapter newsletters and the local media. Bill Eisenhart is working on getting letters from dignitaries for our souvenir program. Pete Dawson and Chuck Hendrick have negotiated a great rate with Pasadena Golf and Country Club for our Golf Tournament. Janice Mogan has located some wonderful decorations for our 50's Party. Martha Willis is designing the cover for our Souvenir Program.

Here are some highlights of the convention so far:

General Hendrix, Chairman of the Board, MOAA, will be our keynote speaker at the All Hands Breakfast.

Guest speaker for the Military Ball will be LTC Kevin Farrell, USA, who is currently serving in Iraq. Entertainment for the evening will be The Frank Parsons Big Band, a group of 15 musicians and a vocalist, featuring music from the 1940's and beyond. They play a beautiful tribute to the Armed Services that will bring a tear to your eye and have a sound that takes you back to the era of opulence and excitement. Whether dancing or just listening, you don't want these folks to take a break!

The theme party will be the Fabulous 50's but this is not your ordinary sock hop! Radio personality, DJ and lecturer at Eckerd College, Hank Shaw will be here to play the tunes, challenge you with trivia, bring back memories of your favorite movies and commercials and create a little "Edutainment." Door prizes will be awarded this evening and we will, of course, have a 50-50 drawing!

Seminars are still being scheduled but MOAA Vacations will be with us, as will the USF Suncoast Alzheimer's and Gerontology Center. We are anticipating a briefing from USCENCOM, working with the Tampa Chapter to get one of the senior US officers to come and tell us the GOOD news we don't see in print. A special session is planned to address topics important to spouses and special members, headed by Violet Smith. We are also planning a Singles Mixer to encourage single members to attend the convention and give them an opportunity to mix, mingle and plan activities. We are also trying out the concept of a "mini" convention for second career officers who might not be able to take the week off from work.

We hope to have the Convention Registration Form completed soon but we encourage you to reserve your room at the hotel as soon as possible, especially for the night of the Military Ball, May 17, 2006.

*Eckerd Senior College*  
Spring/Summer 2005

ECExplore Florida    Adventures in Learning    Study/Travel    Volunteer

## Study/Travel

China: The Harmony Tour  
21 April-2 May 2006

Costa Rica    Eco Experience  
10-17 October 2005

Italy:    Cooking Academy at Romantik  
Hotel Villa di Monte Solare  
9-19 December 2005

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## MOAA's Legislative Update, August 26, 2005

By: COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

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**Issue 1: Benefits Busters Back At It** - Last year, Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) introduced legislation aimed at imposing automatic and arbitrary cuts in so-called entitlements spending programs when their cost rose above certain relatively modest levels. Under government accounting definitions, military retirement, survivor benefits, veterans' benefits and TRICARE For Life fall in this category, along with programs ranging from student loans to Medicare. MOAA and many others, from the Disabled American Veterans to AARP, opposed an effort by Rep. Hensarling and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) to include such a mechanism in a budget bill last year, and the House of Representatives rejected the proposal. Hensarling's proposed legislation (introduced this year as H.R. 2290) would require automatic cuts in selected programs if total entitlements spending growth over the previous year exceeds that due to increases in inflation and population - about 2.4% per year. But its cutback formula would impose disproportional cuts on selected programs. Social Security would be exempt, as would Medicare Part A (hospitalization) — but not Part B (doctor bills). Federal civilian retirement would be exempt from automatic cuts, **but military retirement and survivor benefits, veterans' benefits, and TRICARE For Life would not.** Because Medicare, Medicaid and interest on the national debt will grow far faster than inflation, cuts in non-exempt programs would have to be far bigger. H.R. 2290 would let Congress elect to cut any entitlement program but Social Security in order to avoid the "doomsday" automatic cuts. We think Congress is unlikely to enact a plan that draconian, but some such mechanism isn't out of the question. We would hope most members of Congress are more sensitive to military benefit issues these days (especially with a war on) than in the mid-1990s, but history (and current Pentagon rhetoric about the rising cost of military benefits) makes it clear that sentiments can change in a hurry, so this potential threat can't be discounted. We've posted H.R. 2290 on MOAA's Web site as a bill we oppose, along with a suggested letter to House members to let members and others register their concerns

**Issue 2: BRAC Surgery** - After long months of hearings, installation visits, and sometimes bitter public debates, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission is getting down to vote on specific basing actions recommended by the Defense Department. As this update was being prepared, the Commission had endorsed Pentagon proposals to close Fort Monmouth, NJ; Fort Monroe, VA; Forts Gillem and McPherson, GA; Pascagoula Naval Station, MS; and NAS Brunswick, ME; and to realign almost 23,000 jobs out of leased office space in Northern Virginia to installations in Virginia, Maryland and elsewhere. Additionally, the Commission agreed to close Walter Reed Medical Center in favor of expanding medical facilities at Fort Belvoir, VA and Bethesda, MD. But the Commission denied the Defense Department's plans to close the Groton submarine base in New London, CT; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, ME; Red River Army Depot, TX and a naval support center in New Orleans.



Mike and Kay McDonough



Stephen & Patricia Starwyck w/Violet Smith



Walter Latta



Mike Brown

**Issue 3: Key Benefits Panels Get MOAA Input** - MOAA Director of Government Relations Col. Steve Strobridge (USAF-Ret) is scheduled to testify on concurrent receipt issues before the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission today. Next Wednesday, Strobridge will be one of three Military Coalition (TMC) witnesses presenting inputs to the Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation (DACMC). The Disability Commission is reviewing the full range of veterans' disability programs and is scheduled to make recommendations to the President by next August. DACMC owes recommendations to the Secretary of Defense this fall on adjustments to military pay and retirement programs, options to shift more health care costs to military beneficiaries, and modifications to Guard and Reserve personnel and compensation programs to reflect 21st century expectations for the Reserve components. Copyright (C) 2005, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Edited for brevity. See [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) for complete info.





# Baseball Update–August

Pat Tamalis “Coach”

The money keeps rolling in! I am very grateful to all our chapter members and friends who have donated so much of their time to this project. We have been able to fully staff every game and hopefully we will be able to earn a bonus on top of our regular “pay” at the end of the season!

July 27: Who would believe that an early Wednesday game would be so busy. From the moment we arrived it was work, work, work! Bob Sims and Dick Oliver cranked out 270 pizzas with the efficiency of an automotive assembly line while Bert Connelly, Natalie Oliver and Pat Tamalis charmed customers and garnered over \$13.00 in tips. I believe we all hit the showers when we got home!

July 30: ParrotHead Day...a salute to Jimmy Buffett. Conga lines and parrots and lots of pizza were the order of the day. Paul and Betty Finley filled in as last minute replacements with regulars Pete Dawson, Tom McCarthy and Pat Tamalis filling out the team. Once again, we had a busy night, Betty and Pat putting together the pies and the three guys out front. There really is nothing like Southern charm...Paul was making tips \$2.00 at a time while Pete and Tom pulled in a few dollars themselves. Our tip bucket is now over \$100.00! I think Betty will be seeing pizza in her sleep for the next few nights after churning out 144 pizzas...awesome effort!! We actually met a retired officer who had NEVER heard of MOAA! Amazing! We tried to recruit him but no luck...at least we tried.

August 16: New team member Lynn Cook joined the veterans Gary Gilchrist, Bert Connelly, Chuck Hundley, Bob Sims and Pat Tamalis for a 200 pizza night. Bob cranked out the pies at an amazing speed while Lynn and Chuck kept the operation moving. Bert identified a major problem with the stand early in the day...we had no beer! After passing the problem up the chain, we were able to satisfy nearly 90 thirsty customers. Aside from the money we made, we handed out two applications for MOAA membership, including applications for our chapter! Go Team!

### September Line-Up:

September 11: Dick and Natalie Oliver, Tom McCarthy, Pat Tamalis

September 21: Gary Gilchrist, Chuck Hundley, Bob Sims, Pete Dawson, Tom McCarthy, Pat Tamalis

September 30: Chuck Hundley, Paul and Betty Finley, Pat Tamalis

### END OF SEASON

\*\*\* Looking Forward to Next Year\*\*\*

This effort at Tropicana has been very lucrative and fun for those involved. Unfortunately, next year we won't have the same number of volunteers and would not be able to run the stand by ourselves. With that in mind, our Chapter will go on record as the sponsor for the Suncoast Senior 60+ Women's Softball League and the MsFits Team. The league was orga-

nized three years ago, with the goals of maintaining a positive attitude toward life, improving physical and mental fitness, and, of course, enjoying the game of softball. Although women of any age can play on the league teams, the Suncoast Senior Traveling Team consists of women over the age of 60. These women have placed second in the tournament in Charleston, SC and won the recent tournament in Manassas, VA. This same team will also play in Gallatin, TN, St. George, UT and finish the 2005 season in Ft. Myers, FL. Members of this team will fill in volunteer positions at our stand next year to earn funds for their tournaments. We will split the funds based on the number of volunteers each organization provides.



John and Marjory Milford

### Financial Statement (25 August 2005)

OPERATING ACCOUNT: (Previous entry in parenthesis)

Income: \$560.00 (\$390.00)

Expenses: \$1,119.76 (\$977.12)

Cash Flow Out: \$559.76 (\$381.82)

Operating cash on hand: \$2,891.53 (\$4790.73)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

August donations \$165.00

August balance: \$1,192.87 (\$1,027.87)

Scholarship fund amount does not include amounts donated directly by our club members directly to MOAA National.

PROJECT HELPING HAND:

Equity Distribution: \$47.00 (\$25.00)

Donations: \$38.00 (\$40.00)

Current balance \$470.00 (\$385.00)

Project Helping Hand funds will be disbursed when balance reaches \$500. Baseball fund is disbursed by vote of members who participated in earning the money.

BASEBALL FUND: Earned to date: \$2,852 (\$1,865)

Note: Chapter is well financed to complete operations until dues are collected in the fall for 2006.

Maj. **Pete Dawson**, USAF(Ret)

Treasurer



# TAPS

Lt Col **Fred. C. McCarthy**, USAF (Ret)  
August 21, 2005, Page 34, 2005 Directory

## Sick List

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

- \* Col **Mildred (Gene) Butler**, USAF (Ret)  
13780 89<sup>th</sup> Ave, N, Seminole, 33776
- \* COL **John E. Jessup**, USA (Ret)  
3701 42nd Ave S, St Petersburg, FL 33711.
- \* 1Lt **Robert L. Alvarez**, USMC (Ret)  
6070 80th St, N, #401, St Petersburg, FL 33709
- \* BG **Albert J. Redman**, USA (Ret)  
12112 Kay Drive, Seminole, FL 33772
- \* LTC **Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)  
530 59th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706

Your cards, prayers and thoughts are welcome. **RJS**

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## A Veteran’s Legacy:



*They are the stars on my flag  
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The unsung heroes who remain,  
To make sure that we all know  
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Hold her high for all to see  
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—by J.R. Schembre*

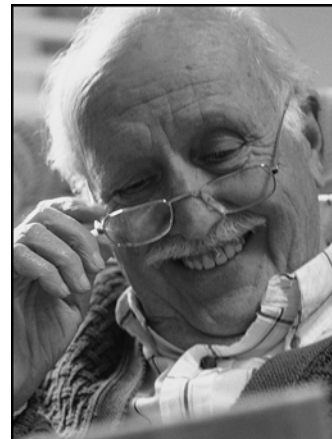
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## Basil the bold (and now a computer 'nerd')

Love 'em or hate 'em, but they are almost necessary if you want to be "with it" in today's information age. I know that I resisted joining the computer crowd for a long time. I said to myself and others that PC's were just a passing fad and people would get tired of them eventually. Well, that didn't happen so here I am and have been for several years.

Being able to type is a help in adapting to computers but by no means a necessity. There are plenty of "hunt 'n peckers".

A computer and Information Service Provider (ISP) connects you to the whole world, even France and Germany and other places you have never heard of. Using a service called a Search Engine, Google is the most popular, one can find almost anything you wish. Type in the subject and Google will present almost innumerable choices. Just point, click and select the most likely path to the world of information. Note, you can also find things that you think shouldn't be allowed.

A computer doesn't have to have a lot of fancy-smancy programs or gadgets to be useful. Most people, and I don't include Jim



Basil

Hughes, Roger Shields and Al Neville, only use their computer for e-mail or to look up things on the internet. An ISP is necessary for those activities but the cost is minimal; as low as \$15.00 per month for what is called a dial-up service on your phone line. A high-speed internet service isn't necessary unless you are frequently sending and receiving photos and such stuff. If you wish to make a paper record of your e-mails or stuff you get from the internet such as recipes or bank statements, you will want a printer.

A very good computer can be had for under \$400.00 and an excellent desk jet printer for about \$100.00.

So getting wired is not expensive or complicated. Even I did it and so did folks like Gen. Peck and if you need convincing, ask Violet Smith, recent convert.

Those of us on the chapter board find being computer literate invaluable when exchanging ideas and information - better than the telephone since the recipient can receive messages at any time; some of us are night-owls.



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### Walking Again

Patient: "Well, Doc, you sure kept your promise. You said I'd be walking in a month and you were right. I had to sell my damn car to pay your bill."

Oliver Wendell Holmes once attended a meeting in which he was the shortest man present. "Dr. Holmes," quipped a friend, "I should think you'd feel rather small among us big fellows."

"I do," retorted Holmes. "I feel like a dime among a lot of pennies."

## LUNCHEON MEETING

11 AM - 1:30 PM, Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

Banquetmasters, 8100 Park Blvd, PPK

• Reservations by Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

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OR

LCDR Paul Finley 391-5908

## Calendar of Events

**Luncheon Meetings** are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month—mixer 1100 - 1145; luncheon and program 1145 - 1315; at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**, Friday, 1100,

Dr. Amanda Smith, M.D., USF Suncoast Alzheimer's and Gerontology Center

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**, Friday, 1100,

CAPT Bob Siilah, USN (Ret), president, Tampa Chapter, MOAA

**November 18<sup>th</sup>**, Friday, 1100,

Brigadier Ikram, USCENTCOM, Pakistan, will discuss Pakistan's role in the coalition and issues impacting the nation's ability to assist in the war on terrorism.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>**, Friday, 1100,

Christmas Program details TBD .

**January 20<sup>th</sup>**, Friday, mixer 1700, dinner and program 1800

Installation DINNER at The St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

**February 17<sup>th</sup>**, Friday, 1100,

Metro Crime Prevention of Florida, will discuss personal security issues.

(Note, May 17 luncheon meeting—Military Ball TradeWinds Resort)

**Business Meeting** are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month — 1130 - 1230 at Perkins Family Restaurant on the NE corner of Starkey Rd. and Park Blvd. in Seminole.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** (Note: Tuesday meeting)

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Monday

**November 7<sup>th</sup>**, Monday

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**, Monday

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** (Note: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**, Monday

### ROWC

**Luncheon**—(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) meet 11:30 AM, lunch 12:30 PM

•**Reservations:** LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146

•**Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**, The Wine Cellar, North Redington Beach.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>**, The Wine Cellar, North Redington Beach.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**, Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club

**Bridge** – (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) of the month 10:00 AM Banquet Masters, Pinellas Park. •**Reservations:** Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or Margaret Peck 525-1688

**2006 Convention** (May 14-18, 2006) MOAA 2006 Florida Council of Chapters Convention in St. Pete Beach, Trade Winds Island Grand Resort.

More information: MAJ Pat Tamalis, phone: 392-1066 or by e-mail: ptamalis@tampabay.rr.com

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