



THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association
www.nwfmooa.org

Vol. 18 No. 4 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

APRIL 2012

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed. 4 April 2012
Time: Open: 0700; Bkfst: 0715;
 Meeting: 0800-0900
Place: Eglin Bayview Club
Program: Update from MOAA
 National, Col Richard Erickson,
 USAF (Ret)
 Eglin Bayview Breakfast

Please:

- Make a reservation
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.
 \$7.00 for Club Members
 \$9.00 for Non-Members

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Dan Cobbs at 685-9415 or send an email to: bvanhoesen@cox.net if you are attending.

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Twentieth Amendment - Part III

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

MOAA Leadership Speaks to Chapter Members

By Ken Wright

We will be welcoming Colonel Richard Erickson, USAF (Ret), who will be representing the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

Colonel Erickson currently sits on the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee of MOAA. Colonel Erickson will be updating the chapter of the challenges and successes of MOAA and will be here to answer your questions about the organization. Colonel Erickson has his undergraduate and master's degrees from Florida State University (GO NOLES) and holds a doctorate

from the University of Virginia, a J.D. from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree in international law from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. His Air Force career included a number of high level international law billets in Europe and at Hq USAF. Currently residing in Montgomery, Ala., he is a past president of the Montgomery Area Chapter of MOAA and currently serves as state treasurer of MOAA's Alabama Council of Chapters. This is your time to let our parent organization know how we feel and offer suggestions to improve it.



Where's My Defender?

By Scott Berry, NWFMOA Secretary

Please don't kill the messenger. If you see "2011" on your mailing label, I have no record you've renewed your membership and this will be your last newsletter. The Board approved a 30 day extension due to the change in rates and that ends March 31st. Call a board member to explain the advantages of chapter membership. Our numbers are shown in the left hand column.

President's Corner

“Semper Paratus”

By Ken Wright



Ken Wright

The Northwest Florida Military Officers Association is alive and well and we have a number of things on the horizon. If you missed the briefing from Lt Gen Gordon Fornell, you missed a good one. He highlighted some challenges our local military commands will face in the future and has called upon our organization to step up and make our presence known. As many you know, the military continues to be under the microscope and some of our rights, privileges, and benefits we earned and promised are being challenged by Congress without regard to the impact on our national security. With this said, it is our obligation to use our knowledge and experience in educating Congress about the possible consequences of some of these actions they are considering. We have lived through these knee jerk reactions in the past and our national security suffered for it. So, make sure you use the tools our parent organization has provided by using pre-addressed letters and webpage resources in supporting MOAA positions on a number of initiatives Congress has proposed.

Okay, let's move on to some great projects and programs planned in the future. As we continue to grow our organization, we want to use our organization's talents to educate and support our membership. We plan on doing this through a number of seminars which Gayle Norgaard has been instrumental in starting and implementing. They will be noted in the Defender and we want you to stay tuned.

We also have a number of membership drive opportunities with the 2012 Veterans Expo on May 23, 2012, at the county fairgrounds or the Military Appreciation and

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PUBLIC RECORD

IN MEMORIAM: Col Joseph Stanley, USAF (Ret), 3/15/2012.

MEMBERSHIP By Gayle Norgaard



Gayle Norgaard

MOAA is an organization with ONE POWERFUL VOICE®. With the support of our members they are dedicated in preserving the earned entitlements for our active duty, retired, survivors and their families. The FY 2013 budget initial summary proposes cutbacks in nearly all aspects of defense spending, including force levels, healthcare, and compensation programs. At this time when the USA is struggling with the economy, our military active duty, retired, and survivors could be hit hard. MOAA is our voice in the fight to keep our benefits. We as individuals must let our voices be heard. There are several ways to do this which includes preprinted postcards, responding to emails, and phone calls. Let our Representatives and Senators know your concerns.

It is important to continue to recruit new members to join our local chapter. MOAA is currently offering a complementary membership for active duty, retirees, and survivors under the Give Me 10 Program. Active duty can receive a 1 year membership and retirees/survivors a 2 year membership for \$30 versus \$34 annually. Encourage people to sign up online: www.MOAA.org. Click join that takes you to Give Me 10 Program.

LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD.

Spring Cleaning on Your Medicine Cabinet

Eglin is sponsoring another opportunity for cost-free and safe drug disposal.

When: April 28th 2012 from 10 AM – 2 PM

Where: Satellite Pharmacy Parking Lot

Why: Because it's the smart thing to do.

Turn in your unused, expired, or no longer needed medications. This will reduce/prevent drug misuse and abuse.

** Due to health hazards, injectable syringes or needles cannot be accepted.**

One of the most important things we can do as members of the national Military Officers Association of America is to support the organization's efforts to represent us in front of our elected Representatives and Senators.



Bill Van Hoesen

As you know, the White House and DOD have announced the FY 2013 defense budget proposal which includes almost \$500 billion in reductions over the next 10 years. A considerable share of these cuts will be taken in the personnel, compensation, health care, and other benefits. A few of the proposals have been made public and are available for review.

It is MOAA's position such ill-advised proposals (1) greatly cheapens the extraordinary sacrifices demanded of career service members in return for their earned compensation, and (2) undermines readiness and military professionalism by discouraging career service.









When you received the March 2012 issue of the "Military Officer" there was an overwrap consisting of a series of preprinted postcards. If you haven't already done so, please sign, stamp, and mail the postcards to your elected officials. I would be happy to furnish you with replacements if you would like them. Just contact me at 850.225.2957 or bvanhoesen@cox.net. A little help from your friends, neighbors, and relatives will also go a long way in letting our Congressmen know how we feel about the proposed cuts.

Survivors of MOAA members have held a special place in the association since their addition to the ranks of then-TROA in 1975. Although the group receives the same level of membership benefits as officer members, auxiliary members have never had the opportunity to vote in MOAA's board of directors elections or officially make their voices heard on national platform issues. That status should change this year. In August, the general membership will have the opportunity to vote on approving a change to the MOAA bylaws that would grant auxiliary members full voting rights.

Several efforts in the past have examined this issue. In 2003, the Auxiliary Membership Working Group evaluated MOAA's chapter policies using focus groups and member surveys. The group released a report to MOAA's board of directors detailing their findings after a year of research. The decision was made to not pursue a change to the association's bylaws, but the board of directors did approve the creation of a special advisory group you know today as the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC).

Since 2004, the AMAC has served the MOAA membership in an advisory capacity to the board of directors, and the success of the committee helped put the voting issue back on the table in 2011. An ad hoc study committee, formed in July, reported back on its findings to the board of directors in October 2011. The committee used extensive demographic data and input from major stakeholders such as the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee, the AMAC, and various other chapter leadership groups to support their unanimous recommendation that auxiliary members as soon as possible should be granted full voting privileges at the national level.

Auxiliary members make up about 17 percent of the association's One Powerful Voice® and play key roles in leadership at all levels of the association. This summer, the general membership will have the opportunity to make its voice even stronger by granting auxiliary members the right to vote in official MOAA matters. Current voting members should look for the national ballot in the August issue of Military Officer. (Source: MOAA *The Affiliate*).

 **Got a Chapter question?** 
Change in personal info? 
Comment? 
Don't know who to ask? 
Email: info@nwfmoo.org 
We'll get an answer for you.  

Families Reunite after Hurlburt deployment

Chaplain's Column

By Sarah A. Shirley, Ch, Maj, FLANG



Photos courtesy of Bill Van Hoesen



Chaplain Shirley

April Fish?

When I was a pre-teen I went to camp in Northern Minnesota. I had learned about short-sheeting beds and other mean niceties, and crept into my bunk carefully each night for fear of breaking my toes. When my sheets were always in order I wasn't sure whether to be relieved or miffed that I wasn't popular enough to be a prankster's victim. In high school I became "popular," and ended up with second and third degree burns from a prank gone wrong. The girls involved were so embarrassed that when I returned from a period of treatment and recovery, our friendships were awkward and I no longer felt like the popular girl I had once enjoyed being. I understand teasing and sarcasm to be aggression and anger, don't usually like being teased, never like witnessing others on the receiving end, and don't appreciate sarcasm on most occasions. Yet at the moment I work with a group of VA chaplains and truly enjoy their teasing, and tease back with every ounce of effort I possess. I have long had a conflicted relationship with pranks, teasing, and "innocent" tomfoolery.

The month that launches with April Fools Day is upon us, and jokes, pranks, and tricks are on my mind. Those of us who are easily embarrassed or super gullible try not to venture into the company of others until the second day of the month lest we fall victim to April 1st pranksters. The idea of a special day on which it's okay to play tricks on each other is nothing new. It first appeared in literature as early as 1392 when Chaucer's vain cock Chauntecleer is tricked by a fox on a day that may have been misunderstood to be April 1st (Geoffrey Chaucer, "The Nun's Priest Tale," *Canterbury Tales*, 1392). The tradition seems to have spread around the world with interesting cultural variations. In French and Italian speaking countries, the April 1 practice of attaching a paper fish to another's back without being noticed is called *poisson d'avril* or *Pesce d'aprile*, literally "April's fish."

Other cultures observe spring fever by celebrating lightheartedness, joy, and fun without the emphasis on

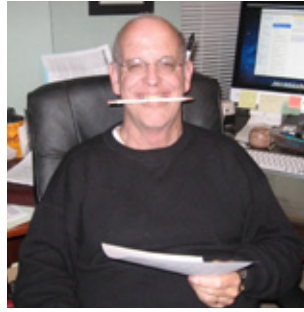
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Secretary's Scrawl By Scott Berry

PLEASE READ THIS!

My normal column, either as Secretary or Editor, deals with various insights, sometimes of questionable value, with a heavy dose of humor which is equally questionable. In my defense, how long can I keep your attention and bring you back on a monthly basis by constantly writing about the mundane data base maintenance duties of the Secretary or the results of spell checks on submitted articles with my Editor's hat on?



Scott Berry

This month will be much more serious. My mom died early this month. That's the driving force behind this column and NOT a backdoor attempt to solicit condolences, phone calls, or emails. She lived a long productive life and went quickly, peacefully, and comfortably so let's move on.

If you remember nothing else from this column, just sear the following into your brain: my message centers on the pre-planning we'd done and the enormous emotional burden it took off of me when there were plenty of other burdens to deal with. The rest of this column are details substantiating the preceding sentence.

Mom had a will, advance health care directive (synonymous with living will), and power of attorney in place. We'd done those years before when her mind and memory were still keen. The cremation was paid for. I'd already written an obituary. The "memorial service" per Berry Family tradition had already been planned. As a result, my initial visit with the funeral home took about 30 minutes and they took responsibility for notifying the appropriate government agencies.

As there weren't a lot of assets, there were no subsequent actions on my part. Yes, I'm aware that will probably be the exception, but the pre-planning we'd done would have substantially reduced subsequent work under any circumstances and is therefore universally applicable. At the risk of stating the obvious, the pre-planning was time well spent. The last thing we need is having to make important decisions during a highly emotional period which could have been done during a less turbulent time. Regrettably, some people don't realize this until it's too late.

So why do people wait? "Dunno" is the short answer. The longer answers may be denial (it won't happen to me

Secretary's Scrawl (cont.)

or to my loved ones), procrastination (I'll do it tomorrow-everything's okay today), finances (better ways to spend my money), ignorance (never heard this was so important), apathy (too hard to do), or plain and simple unvarnished pride (I know better/let the survivors sort it out). The most correct answer is probably the typical default answer on military tests: All of the above.

Having been a financial planner for eight years, I've heard all of these and some extraterrestrial variations that would boggle your mind. Sadly, I've also seen the aftermath of poor planning. While my primary responsibility was on the financial side, it was impossible to ignore the other areas and witness the pain and agony that could have so easily been avoided.

Is anyone missing my point? This isn't rocket science. The available resources are virtually boundless. Almost every month, the Defender has something related to this. This month is no exception.

I know my mom is resting in peace. A little bit of foresight has allowed me to focus on the grieving process without unnecessary distractions.

Berry "OUT"

Families Reunite after Hurlburt deployment (cont.)

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Photo courtesy of Bill Van Hoesen

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fooling one another. Iranians end their 13 day new year celebration on April 1 or 2 with picnics and games and laughter; Hindus observe Holi, a festival that ends with people dousing each other with colored powders; and the Jewish calendar commemorates the salvation of the Jews from the wicked Haman through the leadership of Queen Esther on Purim, usually observed in March with carnivals and parties. Ancient Rome also had a festival in late March, Hilaria, to rejoice at the resurrection of the god Attis.

The refreshment of Spring on the heels of Winter is enough to cause lightheartedness, a bit of insanity often called "Spring Fever." This insanity seems to be universal, timeless, and not culture-bound. It is a time when we are giddy enough to have a good laugh at ourselves, and to revel in planning and deploying excellent pranks. Perhaps it is also that we humans recognize that none of us likes to be the butt of a joke or on the burned end of a prank, while at the same time possessing a bizarre deep-seated urge to one-up, tease, and just generally make fools of others rather than of ourselves. So we do our best to contain the expression of that urge to a single day out of the year, and spend the other 364 trying to remember to be kind.

Do your worst this year on April Fools...think of it as a pledge to be nothing but genuine and kind the rest of the year. On the days you fall short of your ideal, tape a paper fish to your own back, have a good laugh on yourself, and carry on. You have another 363 days to shoot for perfect kindness. 364 actually; thank goodness there's no law against just being nice, even on April Fools Day.

Chaplain Shirley would love to hear from you about the best April Fools prank you ever pulled, as well as stories of pranks gone awry. You can reach her at sarahshirley@gmail.com.

Say What?

A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The flight attendant looks at him and says, "I'm sorry sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

Did you know you can "PRE-FILE" information with the Casualty Affairs Office? These are the required documents after the death of a sponsor that can be pre-filed: Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate of deceased member and the spouse, DD-214, Retirement Orders, Government Life Insurance policy with your bank account number, routing number, address, and phone number (this is for any annuity to be direct deposited), and Proof of any Vietnam tours/assignments from 1961 to 1971 (this is required for any Agent Orange claims).

After the death of a sponsor, the Casualty Affairs Office will need a copy of the Death Certificate (long form) and an itemized bill of Funeral Services performed, stamped "Paid in Full."

Active or Apathetic? It's YOUR choice!

By Gayle Norgaard

F35 AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING FIGHTER WING TOUR: Major Karen Roganov has invited members of our chapter who have not had an F35 tour to attend one when tours are scheduled. If you are interested please contact me and I'll put you on the waiting list.

SYMPOSIUM ON HEALTHCARE OPTIONS: April 26, 2012, 1:00 - 2:30 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1407 E John Sims Parkway, Niceville, FL. Speakers will cover rehabilitation, home healthcare, and hospice. They will also cover financing and eligibility.

7TH ARMY SPECIAL FORCES TOUR: May 3, 2012, 9:30 - 11:30 AM, at the 7th SFB cantonment area across from Duke Field on Highway 85. Tour will be conducted on the base ending with the opportunity to have lunch in their dining facility. There is a limit of 30 people per tour.

CONGRESSMAN JEFF MILLER 2012 VETERANS EXPO: Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 8:00 AM until Noon, Northwest Florida Fair Grounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd, Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

Contact Gayle Norgaard at 850-259-1155, email: gayleret@cox.net, or sign up at the Breakfast meeting.

President's Corner (cont.)

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Recognition Celebration on May 19, 2012, in Crestview. These events and others are a great opportunity to open doors to our active, retired, and former officers by informing them of our local organization and how they can contribute to the welfare of our members and the men and women we have served with or the ones who are serving. Another change we are undertaking is moving the Board of Directors Meeting after hours to allow other members to participate and join. The next one will be on March 27, 2012, at the Landmark Office Center at 217 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Fort Walton Beach. All members are invited to attend. Another great event will be our next Officers Call on May 17, 2012 at the Bluewater Bay Golf Resort at 5:30 P.M. They have been very successful and we hope to see you there and you bring along a potential member. Lastly, I want to thank everyone for their support in making this one of the best organizations in the area. BRAVO ZULU – NWFMOA.

So I Said.....

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$ _____ to support the NWF-MOA Scholarship Fund.*

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

This gift is a memorial in honor of:

Please inform the following of this gift:

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Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

Mail payable to: NWFMOA Scholarship Fund,
P.O. Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310

*TAX EXEMPT UNDER IRS CODE SECTION 501(c)(3).
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WE SALUTE YOUR SERVICE.

Now it's our turn to serve you! Come Live With Us!

Those of us at Westwood Retirement Resort would like to say to all our veterans, "Thank you for your service. Thank you for protecting our freedom."

And should the time come that you wish to make the move to a retirement community, it would be our honor to serve you. At Westwood Retirement Resort you can enjoy the best years of your life and have access to our on-campus Healthcare Center for short-term rehab or long-term care.



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 Regular Reserve National Guard Active Duty Retired

Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc.
Check here if you do not want your name, phone number or email address
listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership includes a subscription to The
Defender for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend
that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a
member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.
**The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.

Membership Application/Renewal

**New Members joining in 2012
receive membership through December
31st of next year for \$25.00.**

Membership Renewal
1 yr - \$25.00, 2 yr - \$48.00, 3 yr - \$65.00

Life Membership Dues**

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91 - 95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86 - 90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81 - 85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76 - 80	195.00	-50	395.00

Auxiliary Members
Pay one half of the above rates