



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 21 No. 04 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services APRIL 2015

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed., 1 April 2015
Time: Open: 0700; Bkst: 0715
 Meeting: 0800-0900
Place: The Meridian at Westwood
 1001 Mar Walt Dr, FWB
Program: Rich Adams, author

Please:

- **MAKE A RESERVATION**
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change. **\$8.00** for everyone.

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Bill Van Hoesen at 225-2957 or send an email to: bvanhoesen@cox.net if you are attending.

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Step Back in Time to the Brink of the Civil War

By Tom Godbold

Our Distinguished Speaker for the April 1 meeting of NWFMOA is local celebrity, speaker, and author Rich Adams. His presentation to our membership will be centered on one of his major published works, *The Parting: A Story of West Point on the Eve of the Civil War*. It is a true and epic story told in flashback from the days leading up to the first major battle of the Civil War to the final year at the Academy for the Class of 1861, a microcosm of the nation. The following is taken from his online synopsis:



Richard Barlow Adams

The story is factually based, and the cadet characters and many other characters are real, and their relationships to one other are founded in fact. Pictured on the cover of the book are members of the class and best friends, John Pelham from Alabama, and Edmund Kirby from New York. The story unfolds with Pelham, Kirby, and their classmates enjoying the idyllic time of their final summer encampment, when chaperoned young ladies would grace the West Point Hotel in hopes of meeting the most eligible bachelors in the country. But soon the clouds of secession form. The Class of 1861 and the country witness the election of Lincoln, the country unraveling, another one forming. They make decisions that, after Fort Sumter, will pit friend against friend in the most devastating war ever fought by Americans.

About the author: Rich is the eldest of three brothers who graduated from West Point. He was a member of the 1967 class, and he continues to be active in West Point alumni activities. He is a forensic engineering consultant who formed and sold what became a good size environmental consulting company. His writings and lectures are based on his interest in United States history and U. S. Army history, as well as personal experiences. In addition to *The Parting*, Rich has written *Eben Kruge: How 'a Christmas Carol' Came to Be Written – A Story about Charles Dickens*.

Continued on page 5

From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Increasing participation is on my mind this month. As a board we've taken several steps to shake things up with increased participation as the goal. Last month's speaker, Larry Williams, was a little different from our normal speakers and our attendance was above average. In May, as part of our celebrating 50 years as a chapter, we're having a lunch meeting and Gen Chuck Horner will be our speaker. We'll also have a representative from national MOAA. Yes, it's true we've been around for longer than 50 years given our TROA roots but we're using the date that MOAA recognizes. When was the last time someone said you are years younger than you actually are? Did you complain?



Scott Berry

It's the change to a lunch that occupies my thoughts. Since I joined the chapter about seven years ago, I can count on one hand the number of lunch meetings we've had and typically they've been driven by the speaker's schedule. And we've never had a dinner. A 0715 start time might be okay for people in FWB but I've gotten feedback that it discourages our Crestview and Destin members.

And there's the issue of meal price. It's probably impossible to find lunch for \$8 at a location suitable for our meetings. So there are clearly pros and cons to the timing of any meeting time. I'm of a mindset to try something different and see what happens. I welcome your feedback.

We are again in need of a treasurer. This is a key position on the leadership team. It's not a glorious job yet vital to our chapter's existence. It requires some basic computer skills. The good news is there's ample corporate memory just a phone call or email way. I challenge everyone who reads this to give it serious consideration. I'm more than willing to answer questions and provide the time required.

Finally, if you're reading this article, you paid your 2015 dues. Thank you. Forty members haven't.

Berry "OUT"

Member Spotlight



Byron Spears

PUBLIC RECORD

IN MEMORIAM: Mrs Dottie Ryan, wife of Maj William F. Ryan, USAF (Ret), 3/10/2015.

NEW MEMBERS: Col Peter C. Kimple, USAF (Ret); CAPT Larry A. Williamson, USN (Ret).

NEW LIFE MEMBER (Correction): LTC Sam Lombardo, USA (Ret).

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Auxiliary Corner: The Survivor's Guide

By Sharon A. DeVaney, Vice Chair,
Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee, MOAA

Later this year, MOAA will launch a new publication titled *The Survivor's Guide*. The purpose of *The Survivor's Guide* is to assist surviving spouses as they accomplish the actions needed following a loved one's death. It will be available in print and as a download from the MOAA Web Base.

The six surviving spouses who comprise the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) developed the guide. During the past year, AMAC members brainstormed on how to help other surviving spouses after they experience a loss. The committee decided a guide with a list of needed actions and phone numbers and a place to record dates, points of contact, and pending actions would fill the gap they had experienced.

The Survivor's Guide is similar to a worksheet. It includes a place to record burial or cremation arrangements, such as the name of a funeral home and a cemetery. There is a place to list names and phone numbers of attorneys, certified public accountants, insurance agencies, and other service providers. The guide includes phone numbers for agencies such as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Social Security Administration, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, and others.

As AMAC members developed the guide, they realized both spouses should work together to fill in the guide before it would be needed. One AMAC member said the most helpful advice she received from other survivors was to keep a notebook to record phone calls. She learned some agencies do not respond as promised and a written record was valuable.

Continued on page 5

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Chaplain's Message

By Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill, USAF, (Ret)
Religious Activities, Florida Council of Chapter

The Gifts That Keep Giving

My wife and I recently flew to Virginia during a record breaking snow storm hitting the Northeast. Even at the Sarasota airport our plane and two others had delayed departures. After waiting 4 hours we were able to change carriers which routed us through Atlanta. Once we landed in Atlanta we took advantage of the time to make pit stops. As I entered the restroom I was greeted by an older gentleman cleaning the toilets and sinks. He was sharply dressed in a clean and pressed janitor's uniform with a vest. He greeted me with a smile and said he hoped my flight had been good. I thanked him and told him I honored him for keeping everything looking so nice. As I left the restroom he said "God Bless You". This simple exchange in an unexpected place changed me from being tired and stressed to feeling refreshed and inspired. We never know how the smallest gift, when given with love, can have such tremendous benefits.

While in Virginia I attended a worship service at the Virginia Military Institute. At this service about 15 first-year cadets known as "Rats" went to the altar to profess their faith. After the service they were all huddled together in the aisle not in a hurry to leave because second-year cadets were waiting back in the barracks to humble them. I went up to the "Rats" to tell them the hardships they would experience could make them forget what just transpired in their lives. I told them to look at each other's faces and not forget that a seed was just planted and if it is not watered it will dry up. Often it takes another person to reach out and water his friend's seed to help it grow. The miracle is that when we reach out to water someone else's seed not only do we help them, but we discover our own seed receives water in return. This is one (sic) the ways that we began to understand God's love for us.

As your Chaplain it is routine for me to share God's love and provide comfort to MOAA members; particularly, widows and widowers. All of us have these gifts to share. I have learned that phone calls and visits from other members of a chapter are also warmly received and welcomed by those who are grieving. So many times we attend meetings, outings and luncheons together, but fail to support a member when they have lost their spouse. It is

Continued on page 5

“Merci” to Gen Manor

By Scott Berry

Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, Jr., USAF (Ret), one of our current chapter members and a past president of our chapter and the The Retired Officers Association, now MOAA, was awarded the “Chevalier dans l’Ordre National de la Légion d’Honneur” (Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor) by the Consulate General of France at a ceremony on March 3rd in Pinellas Park. The award recognizes Gen Manor’s distinguished service as part of the liberation of France during World War II. Gen Manor participated in the D-Day invasion as a P-47 pilot and still has shrapnel in his arm and leg as a result of enemy fire.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 and according to the French Consulate “is the highest distinction that can be conferred in France on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner.”

With induction into this Order, Gen Manor joins Thomas Edison, General Douglas MacArthur, and President Dwight Eisenhower who were previous inductees.

In addition to his service in France, Gen Manor received awards for his service in Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Republic of Vietnam.

BG T. Patt Maney, USAR (Ret), who is also a member of our chapter, nominated Gen Manor for this distinction.

For Inquiring Minds

By Scott Berry

About 500 years ago, Francis Bacon, an English philosopher, said “knowledge is power.” About a hundred years later, Thomas Grey, an English poet, wrote “ignorance is bliss.” When it comes to politics, I couldn’t agree more with Bacon and disagree with Grey.

An easy and free way to increase our knowledge about what’s happening in our nation’s capital is to connect with the person who represents us, Congressman Jeff Miller.

At our meeting earlier this month, Helen Hunt Rigdon, Jeff Miller’s district representative, offered a solution. We can sign up for Jeff’s legislative updates. There are several ways to do this. You can call Helen at 664-1266 or send an email to helen.rigdon@mail.house.gov. Please ensure you provide your name and address. For those of you who are more savvy on the computer, go to www.house.gov/jeffmiller and click on “SIGN UP NOW” in the left hand column. This option allows you to better tailor the information you receive.

And while I’m on a roll, you can do the same with MOAA for updates and hot issues that impact you as a member of the military family. Go to www.moaa.org and click on “Take Action” in the upper left hand corner then click on “Weekly Legislative Update.”

So what’s it going to be? Knowledge or bliss?

Jeff Watson, Colonel (Ret.), USAF

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So I Said.....

I used to be indecisive.
Now I’m not sure.

Chaplain's Message (cont.)

Continued from page 3

always appreciated by the family to see MOAA members attending the funerals and memorial services. This is one of the simple ways we can extend God's gifts of love.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."..... "There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward."..... "It is well to give when asked, but it is better to give unasked, through understanding." Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

(Source: FCOC Communique)

Auxiliary Corner (cont.)

Continued from page 3

AMAC members emphasize the importance of telling family members or a friend about *The Survivor's Guide*, where it is located, and what it contains. AMAC members also stress the guide is not intended to replace other methods of record keeping. However, the guide is different because it includes information on both military and civilian agencies.

While the guide is in development, MOAA members can refer to the shorter Survivor's Checklist or the Personal Affairs Action Guide that are available on MOAA's website. These publications also can be ordered by calling MOAA's Members Service Center at (800) 234-MOAA (6622).

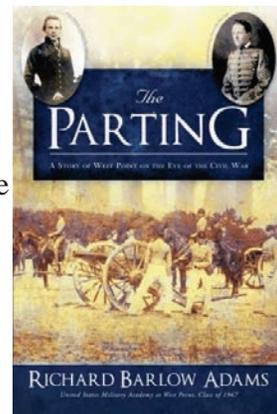
Once the *The Survivor's Guide* is available, chapter leaders will be notified so they can encourage their members to download and use this helpful publication.

- See more at: http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Chapters_and_Councils/

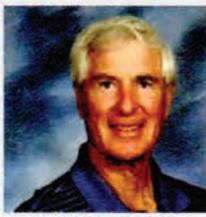
Step Back in Time (cont.)

Continued from page 1

As you might have guessed, Rich is also a Vietnam veteran. In late 1967, six months after graduation, he deployed with two brigades of the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, KY, to Vietnam. Acting as the artillery forward observer for D Company of the 1/506th Infantry, of WWII "Band of Brothers" fame, his experiences there led to the writing of *Song Bé*, a new novel appearing shortly. After Vietnam, Rich became an Army aviator and flew a year in the Middle East. After leaving the military and while growing his consulting company, he was an adjunct professor at SMU in the graduate school of engineering and an adjunct assistant professor at West Point. After selling his company, he and his wife chose to share time between Sandestin, Florida, and the Vail Valley of Colorado, where he has become an amateur "mountain man" as well as a part time ski instructor for Vail Resorts, primarily working Beaver Creek

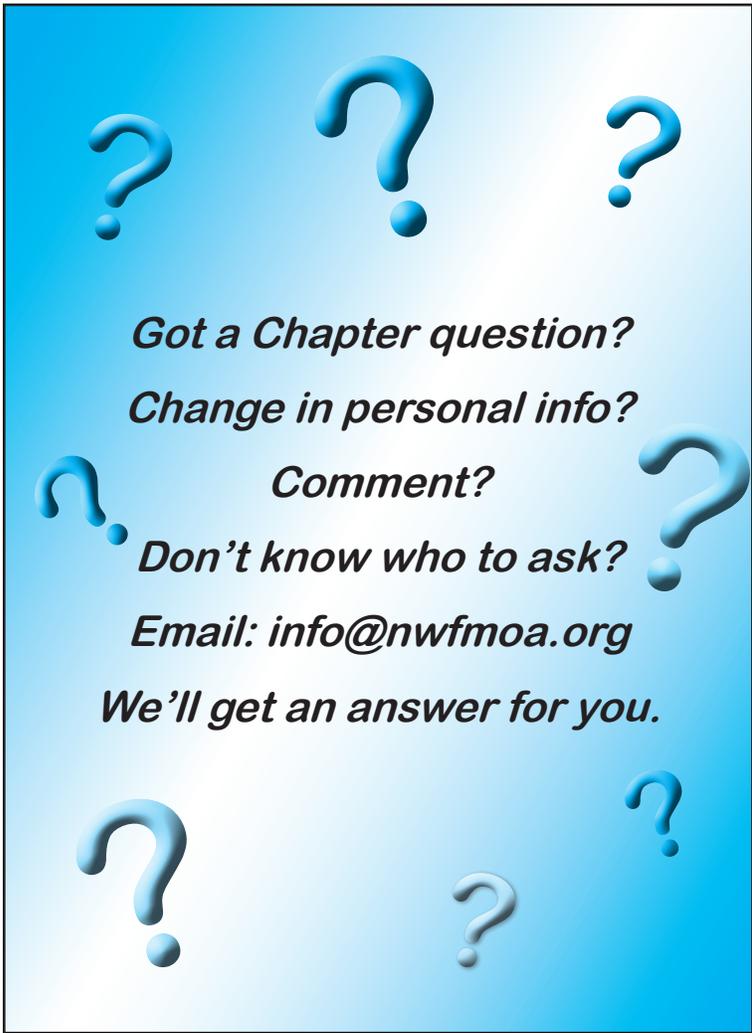


Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a fascinating look into a key part of American history as Rich Adams presents his insights on Wednesday, 1 April. You won't want to miss it!

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