



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 30 No 4

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

April 2024

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thursday 4 April 2024  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow  
**Place:** Fort Walton Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** Brig Gen Jeffrey Geraghty, Commander 96 Test Wing, Eglin AFB.

### MAKE A RESERVATION

- Reservations are Required
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change: \$16

Reservation deadline is Saturday at noon prior to meeting. Go to <http://nwfmoa.org> and select the link "Click here to make reservations", or email [nwfreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfreservations@gmail.com), or call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075 to make a reservation.

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## Our April Lunch features Brigadier General Jeffrey T. Geraghty

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey T. Geraghty is the Commander, 96th Test Wing, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. He leads military, civilian and contractor personnel in accomplishing the test wing's missions of developmental testing and evaluation of conventional munitions, command and control systems, aircraft avionics and guidance systems, and radar cross section measurement. He is also responsible for providing all base operating support, infrastructure and services support for the Air Force's largest. He commands eight groups and 32 squadrons. As Commander, Brig. Gen. Geraghty interacts with local officials across a three-county, 11-city region with a military economic impact of \$2.7 billion annually.



Brig. Gen. Geraghty earned his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and later served as an F-15E pilot in operations Northern Watch and Iraqi Freedom, an F-15/F-16 test pilot, a staff officer in numerous agencies, and a program manager. He completed fellowships at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) as a Service Chiefs Fellow and at SpaceX as a Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellow. Previously a commander at the squadron, group, and complex level, he comes to Eglin after successful command of the Arnold Engineering Development Complex headquartered at Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee

Please join us for our **April 4<sup>th</sup>** Membership Meeting. Click [HERE](#) to make reservations or call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075.

# From the President's Pen

By Fran Hendricks



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## Military Family Appreciation Day

On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, the NWFMOA will once again participate in the Annual Military Family Appreciation Day at the Fort Walton Beach Landing. This annual event is hosted by the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce and will commence at 11 AM and end at 5 PM.

Unlike in past years where we had just an information booth, this year we will have an interactive game for all to participate in while we inform them of the Chapter's rich history in making a difference in the lives of others who have served, are presently serving, or who have expressed an interest in serving. The game we will be playing is abridged corn hole. Rather than playing a complete game to 21 points, each contestant will get three attempts to land one bag in the hole. If they do so, we will capture their name for drawings on the hour (noon, 1 pm, 2pm...5pm) for a family gift card to a local restaurant. Must be present to win. If during their three tries they don't get a bag in the hole, but do land a bag on the corn hole table, they will receive a discount food coupon from Zaxby's. Thank you to the Fort Walton Beach Chamber for orchestrating this partnership with Zaxby's. When the Chamber told Zaxby's who we are, what we do in the

community, and that we were looking for a restaurant to partner with, Zaxby's said, "We would love to partner with the NWFMOA".

Volunteers to man the NWFMOA corn hole booth are needed. Shifts will be from 11AM to 1PM; 1PM to 3PM; and 3pm to 5pm. Please consider coming out and being part of the fun. Please contact Fred Westfall or me if you are interested. Thank you.

Here to Serve (H2S),

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired  
President, NWFMOA

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# Never Stop Serving

We cordially invite you to join us  
in celebrating our 65th year of  
Service to our Community

**1959 - 2024**



How can you join our celebration?

If you donate you will to be placed on the marquee (above)  
and listed in the *Defender* for up to **12 months**

Individuals...minimum \$25

Businesses...minimum \$50

Each donor will also receive a commemorative, numbered RMO!



Click here to donate to our  
65th Anniversary Celebration

**Below is an example of the banner. Click it to see it on our webpage.**

Thank you NWFMOA for 65 years of service to our community. Click the banner to add your name.  
(Mouse over pauses banner)



### Donors so far include:

- Advanced Fire Protection Services, Inc
- Cut-Off Barber Shop
- Hurlburt First Sergeants Council
- Merrill – Tess Bass & Associates
- Doc's Oyster Bar & Grill
- Faith Independent Baptist Church
- Marian K. McBryde
- Major General Don Litke
- Doug and Judy Stauffer
- Rod and Sue Gerdes
- David Jeffcoat
- David Hadzima
- Pat and Mary Kluever
- Bob Allen
- Jeff and Judy Watson
- Al and Carol Stearns
- Howard and Irene Fisher
- Karl and Charlotte Eschmann
- Steve Bond
- John Murphy
- Ron and Nancy Birchall
- Scott Berry
- RADM Richard Buchanan
- Paul Chlebo
- Dick and Dulce Solt
- Chris Beam
- Bob and Karen Gramm
- Kevin Kirby and Victoria Hansen
- Chris and Richard Hallion
- Fred Westfall
- Dave Parisot
- Fran Hendricks
- Hopefully, many more

**Click on the link above to donate and get your name on the banner.**

## Test Your Knowledge

Take the quiz for a chance to  
← win a free lunch.

This month the quiz is about some important military history. When you click on the link below, you will see a single question and a place to give your answer and name. If your answer is correct, you will be entered into the drawing at the monthly meeting (you have to be present to win your free meal at the next meeting). You may answer the question multiple times but only the correct answer will count for the drawing (so answering the question correctly 5 times will not give you more chances to win). We don't tell anyone that they got it right or wrong until we disclose the winner at the meeting. At the meeting, we state the answer and how many got it right. Then we pull the one winning entry from the hat. You must be present to win.

Last month the winner of the quiz was **Phil Krajeck** who was not present. Congratulations Phil!

Click the link below to get to the quiz. The winner will be announced at the next meeting. Starting next month there will be only 1 name drawn. The person must be present to win.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Time To Pay Your Dues

**It is time to pay your 2024 dues.** Please make a check for the amount payable for the next year or beyond.

- Not sure if you owe dues? Click [HERE](#). If your MOAA ID is listed, you owe dues.
- Don't know your MOAA ID? Click [HERE](#).
- If you owe dues, click [HERE](#) to fill form and send it along with your check to

**Treasurer, PO Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579.**

George Colton  
Treasurer

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# Never Stop Serving



## Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar



### **“The robber, the raider and the redeemed”**

Mitsuo Fuchida was the child of a school teacher. He joined the Imperial Japanese Naval Air Service and quickly rose in the ranks. His success in China brought him into the war planning for the Pearl Harbor attack. On Sunday 7 December 1941 he was the lead pilot for 360 planes, and lit the green flare signaling the attack, and radioed “Tora Tora, Tora.”

Our naval forces were crippled. Americans were enraged. Japan ‘robbed’ 2,403 workers and worshippers, and wounded 1,178 on that day. FDR and thousands of brave men and women confronted Japan’s belligerence.

One patriotic American soldier named Jacob DeShazer, stationed in California, vowed revenge. He was selected and trained with the Jimmy Doolittle ‘Raiders’ in March 1942, right here at Eglin AFB.

He was a bombardier on plane #16, “The Bat out of Hell”, that flew from the Hornet. After they dropped their payload on Nagoya, his plane ran out of fuel in Japanese occupied China.

He was a prisoner for 40 months, 34 in solitary confinement. He was beaten daily, and after witnessing 3 of his crew members shot by a firing squad, and his captain die of starvation, his hatred intensified. Several times he was thrown before a mock firing squad that tried to drive him insane.

He almost gave up hope for his life. His anger festered. Miraculously, a Bible was given to him. The book changed his life when he heard about what Jesus had said, done and commanded: “Pray for those who persecute you.”

His attitude toward his captors changed, and they began to change their attitude toward him. After the atomic bombs were dropped, American paratroopers freed him. He came back to the US and attended Bible College in Seattle. His heart was changed and his vision for life was raised to higher purposes. His attitude re-determined his altitude. He felt sorry for the pagan beliefs and practices of his persecutors. He determined to follow the guidance of God and together with his wife Florence, departed the U.S. in 1948 to be missionaries. So where do you think they volunteered to go? Yes, Japan!

Meanwhile Fuchida visited his flight engineer friend who was released from an American prison after Japan surrendered, and told him of his experience. What Fuchida heard shocked him: an American missionary named Peggy Novell compassionately served the prisoners, even after her parents were captured and killed by the Japanese while ministering in the Philippines.

Even more amazing was the fact that her parents had asked the kill team for 30 minutes to pray before their execution. The soldiers were surprised to hear her parents praying to Almighty God to forgive their murderers before they were beheaded.

Fuchida and his friend could not comprehend their act of Christian faith. Japanese beliefs required revenge to prove loyalty to their pagan god.

The Covells prayed to a God of mercy and forgiveness. Moreover, Peggy volunteered to serve the people who killed her parents rather than seek revenge. They were the truly 'redeemed'. They were not just Christians in belief but in their behavior!

Eventually, General Mac Arthur asked Fuchida to testify at the war trials. When he exited the train station en-route to the court house, he encountered a former English speaking POW distributing pamphlets. It was Jacob DeShaver and his wife. Jacob outlined his suffering and redemption in a Japanese prison. Fuchida was puzzled— why would this man who was beaten daily in prison decide to come back to Japan and offer forgiveness, hope, God's truth and selfless love?

Soon after that Fuchida purchased and read the Bible for the first time. When he came upon Jesus' crucifixion prayer "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do", he was deeply moved, repented and committed his life to spreading the Good News.

His own family could not understand the change that overcame him. Many of his war buddies tried to change his mind. But he traveled across his country, forgiven and free from all the hatred that normally ruins a person's mental, emotional and physical health. He wanted others to know that the love of God can replace man's malicious and vengeful thinking with true inner peace.

The robber Fuchida went from a sinker of ships to a servant for the Savior. DeShazer went from a Bat out of hell to a beacon for heaven, a Doolittle Raider to a Divine reconciler.

The 'robber' and the 'revenger' were guided by the Lord, and the example of the Covells' bold faith, bridged their 'redeeming' love and humble sacrifice.

Later that year Fuchida knocked on DeShazer's door and shared their testimonies with each other. He put his forgiveness into action and became a Christian evangelist traveling across Japan and the Orient.

The DeShazers spent the next 30 years as missionaries in Japan. Fuchida even came to the US sharing his testimony.

We look back on the wars we were in, we look back on the pain and suffering. What keeps believers going is their Easter faith relationships, the Word of God, their solitude time, and the Trinity's free gift of grace.

How many of us would go back and forgive an ex-spouse, a bad old boss, a horrible neighbor who soured your life. It's our choice.

In the end both these men and the Covells set an example that moved my heart decades ago. Peggy, Jacob and Mitsuo are remembered because they took the high road of faith and forgiveness.

My wife and I pray this Easter will be a time for growth and reconciliation. May God give each of us wisdom and courage to mend bridges. A blessing awaits you.

## **OUR MISSION**

The mission of NWFMOA is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The Defender is a monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association. The purpose of this publication is to communicate with, inform, and educate chapter members. The national MOAA, this local chapter, and this publication are totally nonpartisan.

?  
? Got a Chapter question?  
? Change in personal info?  
? Comment?  
? Don't know who to ask?  
? Email: [info@nwfmoa.org](mailto:info@nwfmoa.org)  
? We'll get an answer for you.  
?

# Officers Call

Our next officers call will be on May 30 starting at 1700,  
[Doc's Oyster Bar, 303 Glen Ave, Valparaiso, FL](#)  
(behind the Compass Rose).



## PUBLIC RECORD

### In Memoriam

Helen Aufdemorte, SSM, 3/9/2024

### New Members

Dale Marks, Col, USAF (Ret)

Robert Hruska, LTC, USA (Ret)

Doug Stauffer, Associate Member



**Standing with you  
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192  
[www.moaainsurance.com/plans](http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans)

100392

## NWFMOA Shirt Purchase Options

**Order your NWFMOA  
POLO Shirt today.**



Click this box for an order form.



**Wear your shirt proudly.**

**Here is another option...**

Looking for a NWFMOA Chapter shirt. In addition to ordering a shirt, you can also buy your own polo shirt (short or long sleeve) and take it to [American Athletic Uniforms, Inc](#) ([90 Eastview Ave, Valparaiso, FL](#)) to have it embroidered with our patch and your name. Cost of embroidery (Patch + Name) is \$15.



### ***SUPPORT MOAA***

Do what you can to support our national organization. To learn what's going on and to find out what you can do go to: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/> We all will benefit from your efforts.





## Never Stop Serving

**If You Belong to the NWFMOA, You ARE  
Part Of The Solution**

[Click here to join the NWFMOA](#)



## The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America

[Click to read the FCoC Communiqué](#)

## Mascot of the Month

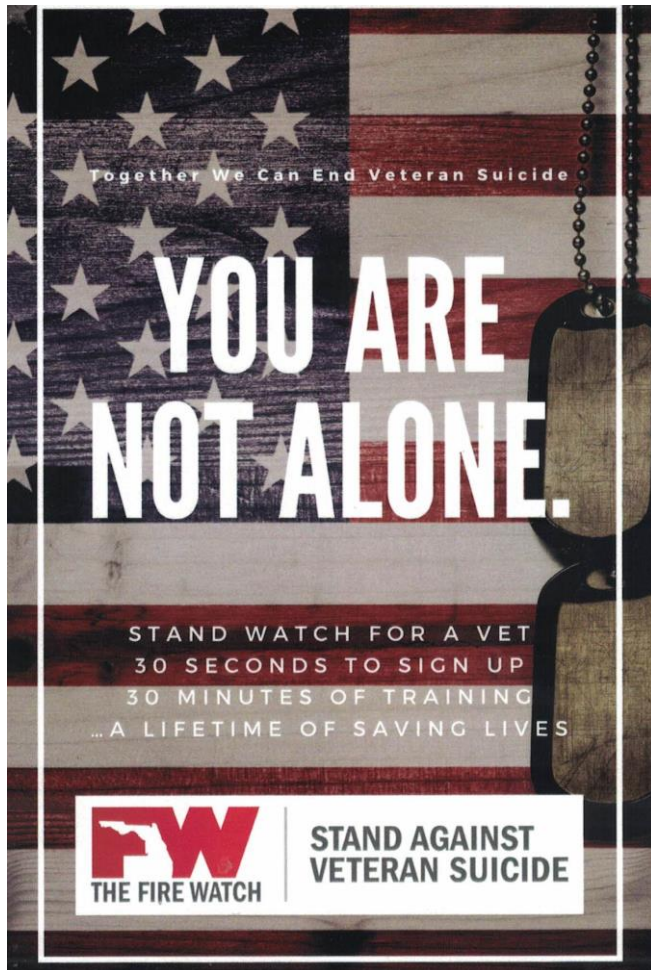
This is a new feature that will showcase one member with their special friend.

This month features Bowser, the lucky owner of Craig McCartney, at Doc's Oyster Bar and Grill during February's Officers Call.



Please submit a picture of you and your special friend by sending an email to [defender@nwfmoa.org](mailto:defender@nwfmoa.org).

## Help Prevent Veteran Suicide



Together We Can End Veteran Suicide

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

STAND WATCH FOR A VET  
30 SECONDS TO SIGN UP  
30 MINUTES OF TRAINING  
... A LIFETIME OF SAVING LIVES

**FW**  
THE FIRE WATCH

**STAND AGAINST  
VETERAN SUICIDE**

THEFIREWATCH.ORG

## BECOME A WATCH STANDER.

The Watch Stander program is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Creating a life-saving community network that is there to support our local veterans in their time of need. Sign up today with 3 short steps.

- 1 Commit To Help.**  
Sign up to be a Watch Stander. It takes only 30 sec to sign up and you will be training on the warning signs to help a veteran in crisis. Visit [TheFireWatch.org](http://TheFireWatch.org) to register.
- 2 Identify The Signs.**  
Watch a 30 min training video that will educate you on the challenges veteran face daily, and how to recognize a veteran slipping into crisis.
- 3 Stand Watch.**  
Stand Watch and be there to help when your moment comes.

**FW**  
THE FIRE WATCH

**STAND AGAINST  
VETERAN SUICIDE**

THE FIRE WATCH  
5011 GATE PARKWAY, BLDG 100, SUITE 100  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256  
904.834.9420 | [INFO@THEFIREWATCH.ORG](mailto:INFO@THEFIREWATCH.ORG)



**STAND  
WATCH.  
SAVE LIVES.**

**Save the Date: Military Family Appreciation Day on  
April 20**



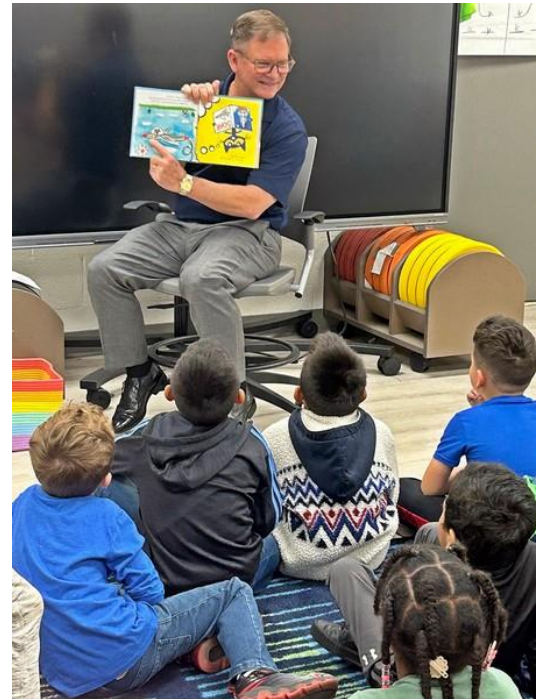
# Community Outreach

## A Day at Longwood Elementary School

### Read Across America

By Jeff Watson, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

President Joe Biden, Jr, declared March 2, 2024, as Read Across America Day, a day that fell on Saturday, so educators in Okaloosa County Schools celebrated on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. As President Biden states in his proclamation, “we celebrate the power of literacy to expand our minds and our understanding of the world around us.” The President goes on to explain that “[r]esearch shows that children who start school at 3 and 4 years old are more likely to graduate from high school and further their education.” Reading is obviously a part of that education.

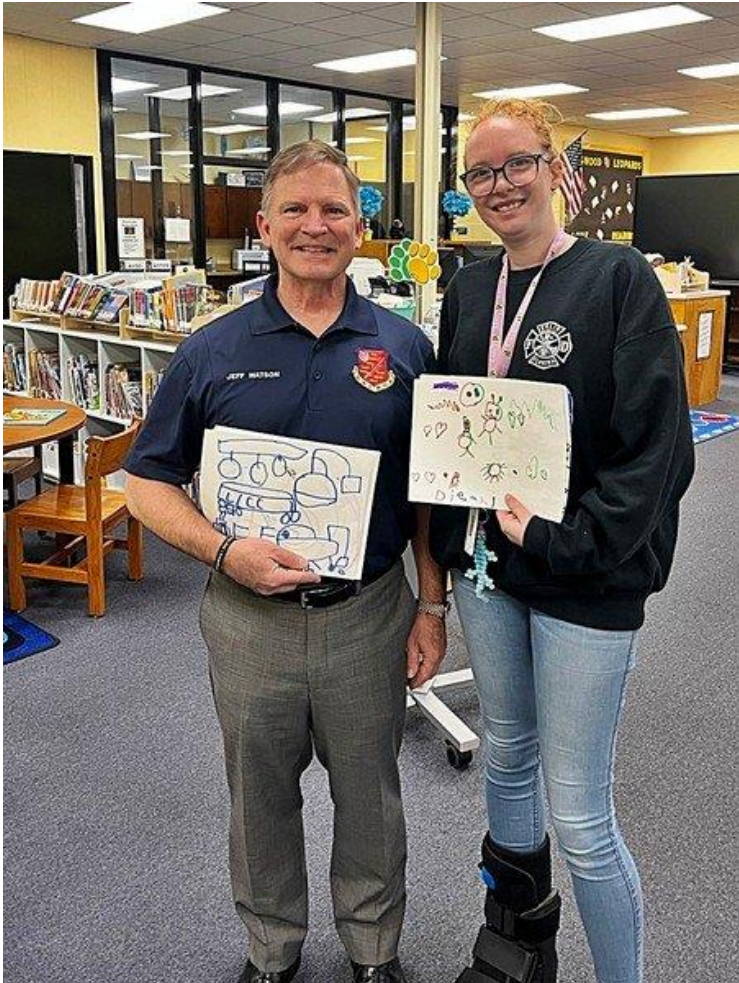


March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Dr. Seuss’ birthday and the encouragement to read is associated with the recognition of Dr. Seuss. If you have ever read a Dr. Seuss book, you might appreciate the simplicity of its presentation and also associate the book themes with imaginative pictures that captivate any young reader. I had the esteemed pleasure to participate in the Longwood Elementary School *Read Across America* event by reading to two combined classes of kindergarteners at the invitation of Longwood Principal Lisa Tucker. While there, I met her administrative staff and librarian, as well as two supportive teachers and their students.

I was given an opportunity to select a book of my choice from several pre-approved books in the Longwood library. I saw several Dr. Seuss books as well as Llama llama books. As a parent and grandparent, I am familiar with these books but I do not recall reading “Pete the Cat” books so I chose the book with Pete visiting the library. I thought it perfect for my visit and these little kindergarteners showed rapt attention. I engaged them with questions as we proceeded through the book and I was re-paid with enthusiasm, raised hands, and responsive answers, by well-behaved citizens.

As I returned to the library after reading the book, and was saying farewell, one of the teachers came in the library to give me a farewell “thank you” memento from the students. She asked them to draw something from the story that they remembered. It was truly a pleasure to see that they had paid attention as the artwork reflected how well they had listened to the story. If you are ever asked to participate in this annual school event, I encourage you to accept and read to the students. I hope that my participation will encourage them to be future “readers” too!





Colonel Jeff Watson is shown with members of the Longwood Elementary School during Read Across America Day on March 1, 2024.



# Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot



Our Scholarship Fund Board will be holding in-person interviews on March 27<sup>th</sup> of the ten JROTC cadets who have applied and qualified for the eight scholarships we have for this year. The applicants appear in their class A JROTC uniforms for the interviews which account for 40% of their total scores. The cadet with the highest total score will be awarded the “Lt Col Jim and Mrs Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship” of \$4,500; the next highest seven scores will each be awarded a \$3,000 scholarship, and the remaining two will be alternates. This year we have two applicants from Baker JROTC, four from Choctaw JROTC, two from Fort Walton Beach JROTC, one from Navarre JROTC and one from Niceville JROTC. I’ll let you know the results next month.

In addition to the eight scholarships for JROTC cadets, we will award two scholarships of \$4,000 each to two local cadets. These will be awarded to Cadet 2Lt **Jeffrey Tavares** (Choctaw graduate in 2021), a senior-year AFROTC cadet at Embry Riddle University, and to Cadet 1Lt **Logan Herron** (Navarre H.S. graduate in 2022), a junior-year AFROTC cadet at the University of Florida. Tavares is on track to be commissioned in May 2025 and Herron in May 2026.

This year’s Scholarship Awards Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, May 1st**, at the American Legion Post 235 at 105 Hollywood Blvd. NW, Fort Walton Beach. Social period will start at 11:30AM and the program/luncheon to start at noon. We anticipate that the MOAA President and CEO, **Lt Gen Brian Kelly**, USAF, Ret., and the MOAA Chapter Affairs Director, **CAPT Frank Michaels**, USN, Ret., will be attending this event in conjunction with our Chapter celebration of 65 years of community service.

In last month’s article, I stated that four of our previous scholarship awardees will be commissioned this spring. I found out a couple weeks ago that there will be five commissioned in May/June 2024. With five of our scholarship winners commissioned in 2023 and five for 2024 (ten in a two-year period), our program has a high ‘dividend’ rate of over 65% of our paid-out scholarship awardees being commissioned since 2015. I deem this as very **SUCCESSFUL RESULTS!**

At the Scholarship Luncheon on May 1<sup>st</sup> we will also be recognizing those graduating seniors from local high schools who have received an appointment to any of the military academies of our armed services. Last year we had three and in 2022 we had eleven.

This year we plan to have Lt Gen Kelly award the MOAA Medals to each JROTC unit’s selected junior-year cadet on the evening of May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Air Force Armament Museum as part of our Chapter’s 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Another lesser known feature of our Scholarship Fund programs is awarding **Educational Support Grants** (ESGs) of up to \$500 each school year to each of the seven local JROTC units we support. These grants help fund programs and activities that are not funded by either the school district or the JROTC parent military office. In the last month we have two ESGs of \$500 each to the **Army**

**JROTC at Baker School** and to the **Air Force JROTC at Niceville H.S.** The ESG for the Baker JROTC will be used toward a school community project to purchase a flag pole that the cadets will use as part of their drill and ceremonies curriculum by raising the U.S flag in the mornings and retiring the flag at the end of the school day. The ESG for the Niceville JROTC will be used to purchase photography equipment for use by cadets in their JROTC and school activities. The senior instructors at both Baker and Niceville JROTCs are Chapter members: LTC **Mike Ramirez**, USA, Ret., at Baker, and Lt Col **Charles Farmer**, USAF, Ret., at Niceville.

The 50/50 drawing at the March 7th luncheon had ticket sales of \$158 with \$79 to the winner and \$79 to the Scholarship Fund. The winner was **Fred Schor**. Congratulations, Fred. Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

Recent recurring donations to the BG Frank Glunn Century Club were made by Maj Gen **Don Litke** and LC **Kevin Kirby**. My thanks to each of you for your generous donations and continued support of the Scholarship Fund. Our scholarship awardees will also appreciate your financial support.

Below is the complete list of our **Endowed Scholarships**, our **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation) and our **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months, along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. All of these donations are used to fund our scholarships. [Note: (D) means deceased and (R) means Renewal of membership.]

**Endowed Scholarships**: Lt Col **Jim and Mrs Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship** (D) (via their estate, effective 2018); **Dave Parisot** in memory of his wife, **Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot** (effective 2017); **Dr (Lt Col, USAF, Ret.) Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship** (effective 2022); **Dr. (Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.) Fred and Mrs. Jan Westfall Scholarship** (effective 2023); and, **Col. (USAF, Ret.) Karl and Mrs. Charlotte Eschmann Scholarship** (effective 2024).

**Gold Century Club**: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen**, (D) (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (D) (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard & Irene Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred & Jan Westfall** (Apr 2018); **Clyde Locke** (D) (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (D) (July 2018); **Dennis Phillips** (Aug 2018); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (Oct 2018); **Carol Baker** (Jan 2019); **Ann Adelsperger** (Feb 2019); **Don Litke** (Aug 2019); **Fred Boyer** (D) (Aug 2019); **Dr. Keith & Elizabeth Kulow** (Nov 2019); **Al Bills** (Nov. 2019); **Kay Dent** (Nov. 2019); **Dr. Roger Riegenbach** (Dec 2019); **Robert "Pete" Peterzen** (Dec 2019); **Nick Marotta** (Oct 2020); **Kathy & Jesse Bush** (Dec 2020); **Patt & Caroline Maney** (Dec 2020); **Kevin Kirby** (Apr 2021); **Scott & Janet Berry** (May 2021); **Douglas Hardin** (D) (Sept 2021); **Patrick Boab** (Dec. 2021); **Bob Allen** (Feb 2022); **Bobbi Hanson Garcia** (Mar 2022); **Joy Houck** (Mar 2022); **George Colton** (May 2022); **Bob Secrest** (May 2022); **Brig. Gen Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks** (Oct 2022); **Les Matheson** (Feb 2023); **Dan Brown** (April 2023); **Tess Bass** (August 2023); **Bob Gramm** (Dec 2023); and, **Larry Tashlik** (Dec 2023) [Note: 42 total members]

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club** (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): April 2023: **Dennis Phillips** (R); **Dan Brown** (R) (In memory of Col. Don Panzenhagen); **Al Bills** (R); **Larry Bush** (R); May 2023:

**Chris Beam (R); Bob Secrest (R); and, Dr. Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher (R); June 2023: Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Maj. Bill Van Hoesen); August 2023: Dan Brown (R); Christine Hallion; Kevin Kirby (R); Dick Solt (R); Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Col. ‘Skip’ Harrington and Col. Bill Byerley); Tess Bass (R); October 2023: George Colton (R); November 2023: Pat Johnson; Pete Peterzen (R); Dave Parisot (R)(In memory of Chong Parisot); Keith & Elizabeth Kulow (R); Tess Bass (R); December 2023: Les Matheson (R); Jeff Watson (R) (In memory of Maj. John Besten, USAF, Ret.); Karl and Charlotte Eschmann (R); Bob Gramm (R); Brig. Gen. Fran & Connie Hendricks (R); Larry Tashlik (R); Kay Dent (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Kettter); and, Janet Ryan Taylor (R) (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); February 2024: Rod Gerdes (R); March 2024: Don Litke (R); Kevin Kirby (R).**

**2023 Business Platinum Donors: (\$1,000+): Dec. 2022: Bass, Byrd & Associates at Merrill Lynch of FWB (R); Florida Power & Light**



**2022/2023 Business Gold Donors (\$500 - \$749): Dec. 2022: Eglin Federal Credit Union (R); Step One Automotive Group (R)**

**2024 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): awaiting donations.**

**2024 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): awaiting donations.**

**Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.**

**NWFMOA Scholarship Fund: “HELPING TO BUILD FUTURE MILITARY OFFICERS AND LEADERS”**

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# Legislative Corner



MOAA's primary reason for being is to protect our hard earned and promised benefits. To that end, MOAA National maintains a list of bills they are advocating passage by elected Congressional officials. When MOAA brings its full weight to bare on a specific bill, it gets everyone's attention. That full weight is reliant on each of MOAA's 600,000+ members to contact their respective Senators and Congressional Representative. MOAA even goes as far as drafting the correspondence for you. All you must do is send it electronically to your elected official(s). To do so, go to our website ([nwfmoa.org](http://nwfmoa.org)), and click the "Take Action" button. It will take you to MOAA's Active Legislative Campaigns. There are presently 24 and each has a pre-drafted letter ready for you to send. All you must do is click on "Write" and follow the prompts and hit "Send". Very easy to do and extremely helpful for the specific bill.

To further highlight the Active Legislative Campaigns, we will highlight one every month as our Advocacy in Action, show the text of the already prepared correspondence, and ask for you to take immediate action by visiting the NWFMOA website ([nwfmoa.org](http://nwfmoa.org)) and clicking on the Take Action button.

## **Advocacy in Action (24-02) ...Tricare Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act**

*Dear @legislator\_greeting,*

*I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor S. 1670/H.R. 3668, the TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act, which extends TRICARE coverage to reserve component retirees receiving early retirement pay. This bill fixes a gap in retirement benefits for reserve component retirees who have earned early retirement through deployment credits.*

*Typically, reserve component retirees under age 60 do not collect retired pay or get TRICARE coverage -- these are known as "gray area" retirees. Some gray area retirees have earned early retirement pay before age 60 with deployment credits for certain active duty service. However, they remain ineligible for retiree TRICARE coverage until age 60.*

*The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act makes gray area retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit. Reserve component members who have earned early retirement deserve the full retirement benefit, including access to affordable, high-quality health care via the retiree TRICARE health plan.*

*Please support this legislation to ensure all uniformed services retirees receiving retired pay are also covered by the TRICARE health care benefit. Thank you for your consideration.*

*Your name will appear here.*

(Request you add Member, NWFMOA below your name...we want our two Senators and Congressman to know NWFMOA is proud to be part of MOAA's powerful voice)

## Surviving Spouse Corner

Chaplain Ray Alexander has created a number of excellent resources for Surviving Spouses and it is on our website. Be sure to check it out by clicking on the link below. Or visit our [website](#) and click on the Member area.

[Click here for Surviving Spouse Information](#)



### The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters  
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[Click to read the FCoC Communiqué](#)

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## Important Things To Remember

### What

### What to Click

Make a reservation for our monthly luncheon.	<a href="http://nwfmoa.org/reservations.html">http://nwfmoa.org/reservations.html</a>
Update your contact information	<a href="http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html">http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html</a>
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#### Is Your Personal Information Up to Date?

If any of your vital information has changed, like if you've moved and have a new mailing address, or a new phone number or email address, please use the Update Your Information link on our NWFMOA website.

The link is [http://nwfmoa.org/info\\_update.html](http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html)

The information you provide helps us keep in touch with you and is ONLY used by the NWFMOA

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# And Remember... Never Stop Serving

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