



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 24 No. 08 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services AUGUST 2018

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 2 August 2018  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
Program to follow  
**Place:** Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** Maj (Ret) Ken Leone,  
SOF Secrets You Didn't Know

Please:

- **MAKE A RESERVATION**
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:  
\$13.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at [www.nwfmoa.org](http://www.nwfmoa.org) and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at [nwfreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfreservations@gmail.com), or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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## Some SOF Secrets You Didn't Know

By Scott Berry

I'm very aware that a large part of our membership has some Special Ops experience in one way or another. And I'm sure that some of you have flown SOF aircraft. But I'm also fairly sure you'd be interested in hearing some SOF insights that you hadn't heard before. One very qualified person to do that is our August speaker, Ken Leone. He's worked C-130 issues from many different angles as a flyer and staff officer on some "unique" projects.



Maj (Ret) Ken Leone

Ken entered the Air Force in 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War. He has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in aeronautical engineering and to round things out, a Master's degree in Software Engineering. He was an instructor pilot/OIC of the flight simulator for C-130 tactical airlift at Langley AFB, VA. He also served a combat tour in the AC-130A gunship in Thailand in 1971 and a short tour in the airfield survey office in Vietnam in 1971. He returned for another short tour in tactical airlift to Vietnam in 1973. He then worked in AF Systems Command on the modification of special ops aircraft and integrating cruise missiles into various aircraft. He completed his Air Force career in the Weapons and Tactics office at Hurlburt and in munitions development/conventional cruise missiles at Eglin AFB. Ken retired as a Major in

1988. He then worked as an independent software consultant, university instructor, and IT consultant for 20 years. Ken has worked on several veterans celebrations at the Eglin Armament Museum and has served as a special master to the court on lawsuits involving software issues. His wife of 51 years, Mary Ann, is a retired RN, and they have three children and six grandchildren. They have lived in Poquito Bayou since 1981 at 30 Poquito Rd., Shalimar, FL 32579. You can reach him by email at [kcleone@cox.net](mailto:kcleone@cox.net).

I hope you'll join us for his presentation and have the opportunity to round out your knowledge of Special Ops.

# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Whew! Has it been a scorcher! As if feeling the heat wasn't enough validation that summer came early and strong, my electricity bill is a secondary reminder of the need for additional cool air.



**Scott Berry**

And speaking of "cooling off," a number of us met on 7/15 for a long overdue Officers Call at Cheers! in Shalimar. Our last one at the Dockside in Niceville was such a success I was concerned that no one would show given its different location. I'm glad to admit I was wrong. We had a largest crowd ever. If you weren't there you missed a great event. Cool drinks flowed freely in addition to great discussion and food. So I think this place is a keeper. And by the way, the owner gave the Scholarship Fund a check for \$1000 while we were there! Thank you Cheers!

I've gotten feedback about my serious offer to save money on Sirius. Several have tried it with predictable (in this case successful) results. It's reinforced the power of saying "No." For those who missed my comments at our meeting several months ago, I got major sticker shock when renewing my Sirius satellite radio subscription for my new car. I questioned the amount and got an instant price reduction. Kind of like the way I deal with Cox. Others get even better deals. Try it if you want to save some money.

Every organization, no matter how good it is, needs an occasional heading check. Some board members vocalized that so the board is in the middle of an organizational goal review. Our last one was in 2012. Although some of the goals are still valid, we're tweaking them and making them more relevant to where we are

## PUBLIC RECORD

New Members:

Sykes, Ruth A., Lt Col (Ret), USAF

today. For example, we had about 420 members back then. We're around 280 today. We were still holding meetings at the Eglin Officers Club and hadn't even moved to Westwood yet. So things have changed a bit and our review will reflect that. Its intent is to give us quantifiable goals to reach and then attach actions to achieve them. I'll keep you posted on the results.

Finally, thank you to all of you who responded to the MOAA call for action on grandfathering TRICARE fees. The jury is still out but initial indications are that we had an effect. We'll continue to do those in the future. However, I'm very sensitive to overloading your email inboxes. If we send something out, I will ensure that it's important and requires action. As I said at the last meeting, Congress pays attention to numbers so everyone's email or phone call counts. Thanks again!

Berry "OUT"



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



# Blue Angels Air Show

Four words: “Blue Angels Practice Day”. Or you have the same meaning with four other words: “Breathtaking, awe-inspiring, amazing, impressive.

I went to Pensacola Beach on Thursday July 12 which was “practice day” for the Blue Angels Air Show and was treated to an awesome aerial demonstration. The Blues put on a full rehearsal of their part of the show. The civilian fliers would not practice until Friday and the full show was on Saturday, July 14.

If you have not seen a Blue Angels air show you have missed a great performance. Their next show in Pensacola will be November 2-3 at NAS Pensacola. To check out their full 2018-2019 schedule visit

<http://blueangelsassociation.org/schedule/>

Don’t want to wait until November? You can often see them practice over NAS Pensacola. Check this link for the 2018 practice schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/blueNASP>

If you would like to view my 15 minute video of the practice day, go to <https://tinyurl.com/BluesPCB>



## 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.

# NWFMOA Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

**Okaloosa County Veterans Stand Down.** This year’s Stand Down will be held on Friday, October 26th at Striving For Perfections Ministry, 24 SW Bass Avenue in Fort Walton Beach from 8:00AM to 2:00PM. At our July luncheon, where **Judge Maney** was the speaker, NWFMOA President **Scott Berry** announced that MOAA has awarded our Chapter a grant of \$3,000.00 in support of this year’s Stand Down. Scott and **Bill Van Heusen** did the ‘grunt work’ on the grant application and coordinated with MOAA to receive this funding. Bill is one of the co-chairs of the Stand Down through his affiliation with the local Association of the United States Army (AUSA). Also present for this announcement was **Mrs. Virginia (Ginny) Barr**, the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Okaloosa and Walton Counties (MHA O/W) which plays a major role at the Stand Down and in providing mental health assistance to our veterans and other residents. The MHA O/W phone is (850) 244-1040.



NWFMOA President Scott Berry with key players in the Okaloosa County Veterans Stand Down program: Retired County Judge T. Patt Maney, Caroline Maney, Bill Van Heusen, and Ginny Barr.  
(Photo by Jean Dutton)



## Building a New Social Life

By Sharon DeVaney

How do you fill the void in your life after you lose your spouse? Here are some ideas to help you become the outgoing person you once were.

- If you don't have to relocate, it could be possible to rely on your family and friends for a while. Your family members have suffered a loss as well. Try to brighten their days. You could meet for lunch or bring a salad or dessert to share a meal.
- If you have grandchildren who have school programs or sporting events, you can attend and be there for them. Perhaps, their school needs volunteers or mentors.
- Maybe your church sponsors a grief support group. Listening to speakers and sharing with others might help you process your loss.
- Calling another widow or widower and inviting them to a MOAA meeting will help both of you keep that connection to military life. Offer to help. You could represent surviving spouses if that position is not filled.
- Volunteering to help at your church or for a community function will bring you as much reward as you will give to others. Every group needs new faces and willing hands.
- Try something you haven't done before. I became a docent at our Fine Arts Center. I loved touring visitors of all ages. For many children, this was their only exposure to art. Also, other docents became my new friends.
- Use your work-related skills. I volunteered to teach a life story writing class at the nonprofit in my community. That brought a group of strangers together who became new friends as they shared their amazing life stories.
- Discover a new talent. I moved this summer and joined the drama club at the senior center. I hoped to find people who wanted to attend plays.

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By Dave Parisot

**COLA for 2018 Pay Adjustments:** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2018, upon which the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is based, is scheduled to be released on August 14th. This COLA will determine the amount of any increase to military retirement pay and to social security payments for 2019. At the end of June 2018 the CPI was 2.7 percent above the FY 2018 COLA baseline (per the MOAA website). Unless there are drastic economic changes by the end of July, it appears military retirees and recipients of social security payments should get a small increase in our monthly payments for 2019.

**MOAA Advocates for All the Troops:** In the July 2018 issue of The Military Officer, **MOAA President Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins** commented "Sometimes I hear, 'MOAA only cares about officers—why aren't you interested in the issues facing enlisted servicemembers and veterans?' Perhaps you have heard this as well. But it is easily countered with a look at what we do. MOAA is an officer-based organization, but we advocate on behalf of all uniformed servicemembers and their families. I often say our advocacy is 'agnostic'. The majority of the work we do benefits enlisted personnel as well as commissioned officers. While they do not qualify for membership, we have their backs with our strong focus on military pay and benefits."

General Atkins' article continues by giving several examples of MOAA advocacy which impact across ranks, e.g., a 2.4 percent pay raise for all uniformed personnel; getting fair compensation for those who had to medically retire before completing 20 years of service (90% of whom are enlisted); and, working VA and health care issues with Congress, the White House, and other veterans service organizations. General Atkins credits much of the success of MOAA to those in the MOAA chapters who contact their Congressional representatives and senators on MOAA agenda items. MOAA's most recent 'call for action' is to defeat the increases in Tricare rates in the Senate version of the FY2019 Defense Bill (which Scott Berry addressed at our July luncheon).

General Atkins concluded his article with: "We can all look at the work we do with great pride, knowing MOAA is making a difference for all servicemembers and veterans and their families who have sacrificed for our

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## Legislative Issues (cont.)

Continued from page 4

country. At MOAA, we never stop serving for the good of everyone in the military community.”

**As members of MOAA, we each must do our part in advocating to our Congressional members on issues MOAA has identified as priority matters for the good of all our uniformed servicemembers.**

## Surviving Spouse (cont.)

Continued from page 4

Instead, I learned the club was producing the Fall Follies. All of a sudden, I had bit parts in three skits and the opening and closing numbers. We closed with a Salute to Veterans, which moved the audience to come to their feet!

- Spread cheer by visiting residents in a nursing home. A friend in Florida makes bouquets from her garden and brings them to residents.
- Consider getting a dog. It will need to be fed, walked, and loved. I guarantee that you will be visiting with other dog owners on your daily walks.

# Now and Always We'll be There.



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By Chaplain Tom Azar

In the North Country of upstate New York, a few miles from the Canadian border rests the small dwindling town of Dannamora. The only remaining employer is the state maximum security prison nicknamed “Little Siberia” for its’ remoteness and harsh frigid winters. At the end of the complex is a cut off to a small farming area, replete with horse farms and rolling hills.

While stationed at Plattsburgh AFB I would drive on the road named “Gen. LeRoy Manor.” Coincidentally, at one of MOAA’s installation of officer’s meeting our president Scott introduced me to a fellow New Yorker. He shared his early history — where he was born, schooled, married and worshipped. It took me a few minutes to realize that here is the man behind the named street.

Last week at a Dannamora town meeting I mentioned that General Manor often returns in the summer to the house where he grew up. Many of the council members and attendees had no idea the street they daily drive on was named after a national war hero. I highlighted his involvement in WW2 and Vietnam and that he was a highly decorated pilot and commander, and that France awarded him the medal of Knight of the Foreign Legion. General Manor was also president of the largest military officers association and attended Bob Hope chapel, and last year the Destin Florida airport was renamed in honor of him. I encouraged them to have a meet, greet and recognition event this summer when he returns.

Often we meet individuals at meetings, social events or places of worship who surprise us. As conversations grow we discover how an ordinary human being rose from humble beginnings and was involved in a critical events that contributed to the betterment of society. Like many Americans my family is drawn to national monuments, libraries and parks with a rich history.

True servants rarely advertise their courageous deeds; it only takes time to be ‘other-centered’ and ask the

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## 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.moa.org/takeaction/> We all will benefit from your efforts.

# Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

The Chapter Board of Directors made a good choice in holding our July Officers Call at the **Shalimar Cheers Pub**. I counted 32 attendees from NWFMOA, and, although this was not set up as a fund-raising event for the Scholarship Fund, we were most pleasantly surprised when business owner made a most generous donation of **\$1,000.00** to the Scholarship Fund. This makes the **Shalimar Cheers Pub a Business Platinum Donor**. Thank you JEB. Please support this local business located at 1270 N. Eglin Parkway, Unit B11 in Shalimar.

At the July luncheon, we presented Lt. Col., USAF, Ret. **Sam Lombardo** with his certificate of membership in the **Gold Century Club** (see accompanying photo). Sam is a veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and celebrated his 99th birthday in July. Thank you, Sam.

The 50/50 drawing at the July Chapter luncheon was won by **Dave Parisot**. Ticket sales were \$140 with \$70 to Dave and \$70 to the Scholarship Fund. Dave donated his winnings to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who bought tickets.

**Larry Tashlik** is a new donor to the **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** in July; Renewal Century Club donors are **Scott Berry, Sam Lombardo, and Don Litke**.

Here is the complete list of **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation since 2015) and **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2017/2018 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets.

**Gold Century Club:** **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred Westfall** (April 2018); **Clyde Locke** (April 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (July 2018).

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club:** August 2017: WWII Vet **Sam Lombardo** (In memory of Jean Lombardo) (Renewal); **Dr. Roger Riggenschbach** (In memory of

Janice Riggenschbach). September 2017: **Beryl Brenner** (In memory of George Brenner); October 2017: **Doug Hardin** (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2017: **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Jean Dutton** (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Renewal); **Karl Eschmann** (In memory of Col. Bud Day and Kay Litke) (Renewal); December 2017: **Dr. Roger Riggenschbach** (Renewal); **Dr. Keith Kulow** (In memory of Lt Col David Kulow); **Pete Peterzen** (Renewal); **Les Matheson**; **Dann Mittiza**; January 2018: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal)(In memory of Mike Flynt); **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); and WWII Vet **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Janet Taylor** (Renewal) (In Honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Dr. Roger Riggenschbach** (Renewal) (In memory of Janice Riggenschbach). February 2018: **Dick Prater** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Nick Marotta** (Renewal); **Dennis Phillips**; **Carol Baker** (Renewal) (In memory of David Baker); **Dave Parisot** (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot); March 2018: **Al Bills** (Renewal). April 2018: **Bob Gramm** (Renewal); **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); May 2018: **Dann Matiste** (Renewal); **Dennis Phillips** (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal). June 2018: **Rod Gerdes** (Renewal). July 2018: **Larry Tashlik**; **Scott Berry** (Renewal); WWII Vet **Sam Lombardo** (Renewal) (In memory of Jean Lombardo); **Don Litke** (Renewal) (In memory of Kay Litke).

**2018 Business Platinum Donor** (\$750 minimum donation): July 2018: **Shalimar Cheers Pub**.

**2017/2018 Business Gold Donor** (\$500 - \$749): December 2017: **Eglin Federal Credit Union** (Renewal); January 2018: **Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates)** (Renewal).

**2017/2018 Business Silver Donors** (\$250 - \$499): December 2017: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club** (In-kind) (Renewal); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind).(Renewal); **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind) (Renewal).

**2017/2018 Business Bronze Donors** (\$100 - \$249): October 2017: **Eye MD of Niceville** November 2017: **Gator Lakes Golf Course** (In-kind) (Renewal); **Mary's Kitchen Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind); **Buffalo's Reef Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind); December 2017: **Tammy's Journeys of FWB** (In-kind) (Renewal); **Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café** (FWB) (In-kind); **Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen** of FWB (In-kind); **Painting With A Twist** of FWB (In-kind); **Ernie's Dockside Café** of Niceville (In-kind); **Destin Party Boat Fishing** (In-kind);

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# Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 6

**Connect with Flowers of Shalimar (In-kind); Shalimar Cheers Pub (In-kind); The Twisted Grape of Shalimar (In-kind); Lee Nissan (FWB).(In-kind). February 2018: David Beaulieu, Agent for New York Life Insurance.**

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

**NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.: “Helping to build future military officers and leaders.”**



**Sam Lombardo receives his certificate of membership in the Scholarship Fund's Gold Century Club from Dave Parisot at the July luncheon. (Photo by Jean Dutton)**

## SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund (Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club).

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Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, and mail to: David Parisot, President; 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc is a 501c(3) corporation. Donations are tax exempt as provided by law. Registration # CH20374. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services by calling toll free (800) 435-7352 within the State of Florida or via their website of [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



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congenial questions. As we get to learn more we come to realize the greatness of our United States is built by men and women who think of others needs over their own and act on them. We know this deeply from our fellow warriors, helping professionals, chaplains, teachers and their spouses who even today live to assist those less fortunate. This way of behaving is rooted in our sacred Scriptures that record the lives of sacrificial servants and of Jesus the Christ in whom we have the greatest example and teachings..

Next time you are out socializing turn your radar on and discover other great and small public servants. Over the decades I learned from conducting military reunions and funerals-I wish I knew them earlier so as to share my respect and learn from them. So often the worship bulletin Scripture read “Greater love than this no man has than he lays down his life for another.” Is there a “General Manor” in your neighborhood?

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Email Address

Rank Service MOAA Mbr. No

☐ Regular ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Active Duty ☐ Retired

**This application is for:**

☐ Life Member ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Surviving Spouse ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**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 is automatically an auxiliary life member.**

## Membership Application/Renewal

**New Members joining this year  
receive membership through  
December 31 next year for \$25.00.**

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81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

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