



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

Vol. 25 No. 08

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

**AUGUST 2019** 

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 1 Aug 2019

Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200

Program to follow

Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club

180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB

**Program:** Your State Representative

Mr. Mel Ponder

### Please:

### MAKE A RESERVATION

- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change: \$14.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at www.nwfmoa.org and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Fred Westfall at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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## Your State Representative, Mel Ponder

By Nick Marotta

At our July meeting of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association, we were pleased to honor two of our chapter members for achieving milestone birthdays--Mrs. Doris Day for her 90th Birthday and Lieutenant Colonel Samuel 'Sam' Lombardo celebrating his 100th birthday. Sam began the meeting reading a moving and patriotic poem he wrote. We also had J. Mark Fisher give an incredibly informative and lively presentation on Estate Planning Strategies.

Our August 1 speaker is State Representative Mel Ponder, and he promises to be just as informative. He will discuss the many bills and actions going on at the State level; many of which are pertinent to Eglin AFB as well as our other local military installations.

Mel Ponder is the Founder and President of Business Empowered (BE) and was elected in November 2016 to serve in the Florida House of Representative, District 4. (District 4 of the Florida House represents a large portion of Okaloosa County including Fort Walton Beach, Crestview, Destin, Valparaiso, and Niceville.) Mel is one of 120 elected State Representatives. He also had the honor to previously



**Mel Ponder** 

serve as Mayor of the City of Destin. As a State Representative, he has the privilege to serve on the following Committee's:

Children, Families & Seniors
Subcommittee, Chair
Higher Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
Energy & Utilities Subcommittee
Health & Human Services Committee
Transportation & Infrastructure
Subcommittee
Ways & Means Committee

Since Florida is a part-time legislature, Legislators start Committee activity in September of the year prior to the regular legislative session to allow time to work their bills through the

### From the President's Pen

By Nick Marotta

Welcome to the August Defender. July was great as we celebrated the 243rd birthday of the United States of America. August finds us in the middle of summer, vacations, heat and humidity, and in this part of Florida plenty of tourists. I urge everyone to continue enjoying the summer and most of all, be safe.



Nick Marotta

In past President's Pen articles,

I've talked about the importance of membership and encouraging all eligible people to join. MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

The Defense Department's fiscal 2020 budget calls for the elimination of nearly 18,000 military medical positions, roughly 20% of today's medical force. The results could be disastrous. What can we do to make our individual voices heard? We can send a message and MOAA has made this easy. Go to MOAA.org, click on the tab 'Take Action', here you will find a "fill in the blanks" form titled, Do Not Dismantle Military Medicine. Fill in the form and hit send. A message will be sent to your Congressman and two Senators. You can do this from your Smartphone, tablet, or computer. As a Chapter member, be sure to include FL19 as part of your fill in the blanks.

### **PUBLIC RECORD**

In Memorium

None

**New Members:** 

None

There are now three levels of MOAA memberships, and as members of MOAA and the NWFMOA chapter, each of us are membership chairmen, membership managers, or membership advocates. We need to encourage anyone who is eligible to join our ranks, especially at the chapter level. If someone joins the chapter, but are not MOAA members, they can sign up on-line for a free basic MOAA membership. The purpose of the basic membership is to get them in the door. Let them see first-hand what the organization is all about. There is also Premier Membership and Life Membership. As a bit of information, for the Life Membership, I've recently received an offer for a 10% discount and payments over 10 months. The Premier Membership is paid by one, two or three year increments. So the question is, what are we waiting for? If you are reading this and not a member, JOIN.

In the State of Florida we have a great selection of Military License Plates. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issues special use license plates for eligible military members and veterans. These special use license plates, honoring wartime service, awards and decorations, and status are issued after the applicant provides documents establishing proof of status, such as a DD-214, and payment of the license tax. Visit www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/miltags.html for more information. Some of these military plates do carry an additional fee; however, the Veteran License Plate and a Woman's Veteran License Plate do not carry an additional fee; you just pay the normal license fee.

Anti-fraud Tip: I have two tips this month. The Julia scam is still alive. If you get a call asking for Julia or from Julia, hang up. IT'S A SCAM. The next tip concerns the Microsoft call. The caller or recorded message states, this is Microsoft and your user license is about to expire. We will charge your credit card or debit your checking account if we do not hear from you immediately and they say call this number immediately. If you call the number, they will phish for your information. The scheme is to get your credit card or checking account information. IT'S A SCAM. Just hang up; do not engage.

In closing, I encourage everyone to share your thoughts. This is your chapter, what do you want, where do you want the chapter to go/do?

# NWFMOA Logo Polo Shirts with/without Name, only \$34

Order your fashionable, extremely high quality Polo shirt at the July MOAA Meeting. Men's shirt can be ordered with or without pockets, sizes XS-4XL, Women's are without pockets only, sizes XS-4XL.

These shirts are light-weight, moisture wicking, with double stitching throughout. It has a tag-free label, with 3 dyed-to-match rubber buttons (women's shirts do not have buttons). See attached photos. Samples can be seen at the 11 July meeting.

### **Available Colors:**

Men's No Pocket Polo Colors – Black, (Light)Blue Lake, Deep Orange, Forest Green, Gold, Grey Concrete, Iron Grey, Kelly Green, Lime Shock, Maroon, Purple, Texas Orange, White

Men's Pocket colors – Black, Forest Green, Iron Grey, Maroon, True Navy, True Red, True Royal Blue & White

Women's Colors – Black, (Light Blue Lake, Deep Orange, Forest Green, Gold, Grey Concrete, Iron Grey, Kelly Green, Light Pink, Lime Shock, Maroon, Pink Raspberry, Purple, Tropic Blue True Navy, True Red, True Royal, White

Due to the Logo colors we recommend Red, Black, or Blue. Men's white is available, but is somewhat translucent. We recommend Blue print on lighter colors or White on dark colors for the same reason.

Contact Dan Brown <a href="mailto:brownaandd@hotmail.com">brownaandd@hotmail.com</a> or 651-0005 to order. Send check \$34 for each shirt to Dan Brown, 60 Lake Lorraine Cir, Shalimar, FL 32579. Shirt will not be ordered until check is received.



**Examples of Polo Shirts without MOAA Logo** 



### By Chaplain Tom Azar

This summer my wife and I traveled to Montréal and old Québec City. We enjoyed the visitor center's recommendations to various historical and cultural centers, botanical gardens, forts, museums and especially the churches and cathedrals.

At the Notre Dames in Montréal and Québec the tour guide explained how the early city fathers went about choosing the land, architect and builders. I'm sure you have seen such beautiful buildings; however, in every presentation the guide underscored how thousands filled and supported the churches back in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today 10% attend! "That is insufficient for the upkeep of the buildings and the salaries," she said, "if it was not for the tourism the buildings would close; many already have been converted to condos, restaurants, and businesses."

As our 'hop-on hop-off' double-decker bus moved through the crowded cities I was reminded of the NYC traffic cop assigned to a major intersection back in the 1960's. He didn't just come to work; he was enthused. He semi-stoically choreographed his avant-garde hand and foot directions to the bemused public. Pedestrians, drivers and cyclists who had the right-of-way chose to slow down or stand there and watch him do his job. He kept people and cars safe. He added a whole new level of excitement to his job description and commuters.

Let's now draw a line between the dots--is there a new way to spiritually choreograph worship and outreach in our holy places? Is there a way to build enthusiasm to inspire people when they look to their Creator God?

When you reflect on your career and coworkers, were there individuals who did more than just show up? We remember those who brought with them that contagious enthusiasm and work ethic. Everyone noticed it and wanted to know the source. It is what I enjoyed most about my years in the chaplaincy —working with men and women of different faith groups and gleaning some of those good qualities to my beliefs and behaviors.

We had great volunteers, teachers, priests, ministers and rabbis who through their own relationship with God, inspired many to "dance to the music" and guide others in the family of God. We didn't blandly coexist, we were enthused, and this directly impacted the troop's mission and morale. May your summer 'hop-on and off' memories to past people and places highlight those who made a difference in your life and those serving our great nation.

## Community Outreach By Dave Parisot

Lt Gen Slife Assumes Command of AFSOC; Distinguished **NWFMOA Members Achieve Life Milestones** 

AFSOC Change of Command: On June 28th, 2019, Lt Gen James C. Slife assumed command of Headquarters, Air Force Special Operations Command from Lt Gen Marshall B. "Brad" Webb at Hurlburt Field. The changeof-command was presided over by General David L. Goldstein, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force. Also in attendance was General Richard D. Clarke, Commandeer, United States Special Operations Command. General Slife has had multiple assignments in the local area, and at Hurlburt field in particular. He received his commission via ROTC at Auburn University. He was assigned to Hurlburt from July 1992 to July 1995 as an instructor pilot with the 20th special Operations Squadron. He returned to Hurlburt in June 2002 as director of Operations, 20th Special Operations Squadron, and, again, from 2011 to 2013 as Commander, 1st Special Operations Wing. We welcome General Slife back to our local area and congratulate him on his promotion to this distinguished assignment.

At our July luncheon, we honored Lt Col Sam Lombardo, USA, Retired, on his 100th birthday (July 12, 2019) and Doris Day on her 90th birthday (July 7, 2019). Both of these NWFMOA Chapter members are distinguished heroes in their own rights.

Sam is a combat decorated hero of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, with distinguished awards of the Silver Medal, Bronze Star (with 1 OLC), and the Combat Infantry Badge among other awards. At the luncheon, NWFMOA President Nick Marotta presented Sam with a Resolution from the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners highlighting Sam's military career and declaring July 12, 2019 as "Sam Lombardo Day" in Okaloosa County, along with certificates of recognition on his 100th birthday from Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF, Ret., President and CEO of MOAA and from NWFMOA by chapter President Nick Marotta. He also received a personal note from Admiral Walter F. Dornan, USN, Ret., MOAA Board Chairman.

Doris is the surviving spouse of Brig Gen George "Bud" Day and is an American heroine as a military spouse, businesswoman, and champion for the humane treatment and release of Vietnam POWs and MIAs. Doris was presented with a certificate of recognition from NWFMOA by Nick Marotta and a bouquet of flowers.

Please see the accompanying photos from the luncheon and refer to last month's Defender for more information.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, left, presents Air Force Special Operations Command's guidon to U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jim Slife, new commander of AFSOC, during a change of command ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Florida, June 28, 2019. Slife is the 12th AFSOC commander and inherits a command with more than 20,800 Air Commandos worldwide. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Marleah Cabano



Birthday cakes and flowers honoring Doris Day and Sam Lombardo on their 90th and 100th birthdays at our July luncheon.



Sam Lombardo, 100, and Doris Day, 90.

## F-35 Pilot Is Joining the Navy's Blue Angels

## From Military.com (Revised) By Gina Harkins

The Blue Angels team has its first F-35B pilot, but he won't be flying the Joint Strike Fighter jet in any upcoming air shows.

Marine Maj. Frank Zastoupil is one of eight officers recently selected to join the Blue Angels 2020 demonstration team. Zastoupil, who's currently assigned to the "Warlords" of the South Carolina-based Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, will be one of the F/A-18 demonstration pilots, Navy officials announced Monday.

"This is the first [pilot] we've had that's been permanently attached to an F-35 squadron," Chief Petty Officer Chad Pritt, the Blue Angels' public affairs chief, told Military. com.

Navy Lt. Julius Bratton, a Hornet pilot with the "Gladiators" of Strike Fighter Squadron 106, was also selected to join the F/A-18 demonstration team.

The team will get two new C-130 "Fat Albert" pilots: Marine Capts. William Huckeba, a Hercules pilot currently assigned to Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, and Rick Rose, who flies the Hercules with the "Sumos" of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152.

Navy Lt. Brian Abe, who's currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 83, will be the Blue Angels' new maintenance officer, and Navy Lt. j.g. Chelsea Dietlin, who's assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element -- East, will be the team's new spokeswoman.

We had a phenomenal group of applicants this year," Capt. Eric Doyle, the Blue Angels' commanding officer and flight leader, said in a news release announcing the additions. "The 2020 Blue Angels are lucky to have these talented individuals join them to represent the Navy and Marine Corps in the team's 74th show season."

Continued on page 7



## Mel Ponder (cont.)

### Continued from the front page

committee process prior to the regular legislative session. The Florida Legislature meets in a 60-day regular legislative session each year.

His company, Business Empowered, is a marketplace ministry headquartered in Destin, whose mission is to equip, encourage, and empower individuals in their calling and in their community.

He and his wife also run a local real estate company called Silver Real Estate. Previously, Mel was the Director of Regional Marketing Programs for the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association and just prior, served as Executive Director of Coastal Vision 3000/THE Beach. A 3rd generation Floridian, Mel was born and raised in Ocala. He attended Florida State University and received a B.S. degree in Finance.

Mel has been married to his wife Mona for 27 years and they have three children; Preston - 24, Casey - 22, and Grace - 14. Above all, Mel sees his primary role as that of a husband and a father.

Please join us August 1, at noon at the Fort Walton Yacht Club for an excellent presentation, and as always the fellowship of our NWFMOA chapter. Be sure to make your reservations early as we are expecting a full house. Reservations can be made online at HTTP://NWFMOA.ORG or by email to Fred Westfall nwfreservation@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing you there.

### **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.

## Scholarship Fund by Dave Parisot

Following the information provided in last month's Defender (July 2019), I have had some questions from chapter members in regard to the relationship between the MOAA Scholarship Fund and the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. The short answer is that there is no relationship as they are separate and distinct programs. Any donations to the MOAA Scholarship program are used by MOAA to fund their scholarships which are applied for worldwide. Donations to the NWFMOA Scholarship fund are used to fund the seven scholarships (currently \$16,000 per year) our Chapter provides each year to local JROTC cadets at seven local high schools in Okaloosa (5), Santa Rosa (1), and Walton (1) counties. The policies and procedures of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund along with the scholarship application can be found at our chapter website of www.NWFMOA.org.

The 50/50 drawing at the July luncheon was won by **Dick** Hallion who received winnings of \$102 and donated \$101 to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks all who purchased raffle tickets. Since my last article, Larry Bush and Don Litke (in memory of Kay Litke) have renewed their Century Club memberships.

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 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 (Apr 2018); Clyde Locke (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (July 2018): Dennis Phillips (Aug 2018); Karl Eschmann (Oct 2018); Carol Baker (Jan 2019); and Ann Adelsperger (Feb 2019).

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months): August 2018: Doris Day; Ruth Cullen (Renewal) (In memory of Bill Cullen); **Dennis Phillips** (Renewal). September 2018: Christine Hallion; Joe Stevens; WWII Vet Bill Colgan (Renewal); George Colton; October 2018: Bob Garcia (Renewal); Karl Eschmann (Renewal) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Kay Litke); Chris Beam (Renewal);

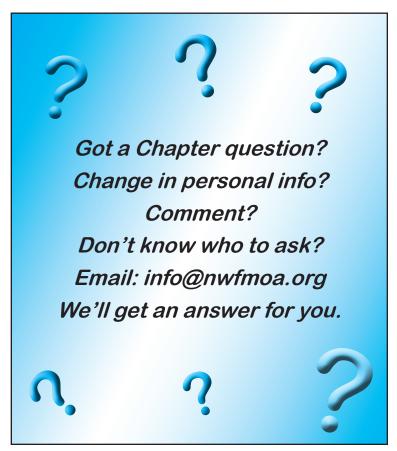
Continued on next panel

Scholarship Fund Continued

Douglas Hardin (Renewal) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2018: **Pete Peterzen** (Renewal); **Dr.** Howard Fisher (Renewal); Bob Secrest; December 2018: Kathleen Bush; Jean Dutton (Renewal); Larry Bush (Renewal); and **Dave Parisot** (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot); Kay Dent (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); January 2019: Dick Prater (Renewal); Clyde Locke (Renewal); Charlie Brown (Renewal); and Dennis Phillips (Renewal); Wavne (Dave) Davis (In honor of Doris Day); Janet Taylor (Renewal) (In honor of Maj Bill Ryan); Carol Baker (Renewal) (In memory of Col. David Baker). February 2019: **Dr. Roger Riggenbach** (Renewal) (In memory of Ashlyn Rhodes); Ann Adelsperger (In memory of Lt Col R. Wayne Adelsperger); Fred Boyer (Renewal); Eileen Arpke (Renewal); Dann Mattiza (Renewal); March 2019: Nick Marotta (Renewal); Les Matheson (Renewal); Rod Gerdes (Renewal); Al Bills (Renewal); Bob Gramm (Renewal) and **Ken Zepp**; April 2019: **Jake Bush**, and **Fred** Westfall (Renewal); May 2019: Chuck Merkel (in honor of Sam Lombardo); George Hanks; June 2019: Joy Houck (Renewal) (In memory of Major Stanley Houck); July 2019: Larry Bush (Renewal) and Don Litke (Renewal) (In memory of Kay Litke).

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

Continued on page 7



### Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 6

2018/2019 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): December 2018: Eglin Federal Credit Union (Renewal); April 2019: Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam, Senior Financial Advisor) (Renewal).

<u>2018/2019 Business Silver Donors</u> (\$250 - \$499):

<u>November 2018</u>: (Renewal); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind, Renewal); <u>December 2018</u>: **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind, Renewal).

2018/2019 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249):

November 2018: Gator Lakes Golf Course (In-kind,
Renewal); Mary's Kitchen (FWB & Destin) (In-kind,
Renewal); Buffalo's Reef Restaurant (FWB) (In-kind,
Renewal); Shalimar Cheers Pub (In-kind, Renewal);
Shalimar Pointe Golf Course (In-kind, Renewal);
December 2018: Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen (FWB)
(In-kind, Renewal); Tammy's Journeys (FWB) (In-kind, Renewal); Painting With A Twist (FWB) (In-kind, Renewal);
Poestin Party Boat Fishing (In-kind, Renewal);
Slick Mick's Deli & Grille (FWB); Connect with Flowers
(Shalimar) (In-kind, Renewal); Destin Party Boat Fishing
(In-kind, Renewal); April 2019: Eye MD of Niceville
(Renewal)

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

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.: "Helping to build future military officers and leaders."

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### 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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| Donor Information (if not printed on check): Name                                                                                                           |
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| Make payable to: <b>NWFMOA Scholarship Fund,</b> mail to David Parisot, President; 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579                                         |

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DONATIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

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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.

REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR
RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

### 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.

## F-35 Pilot (cont.)

#### Continued from page 5

It won't be the first time Zastoupil also performed in air shows. Earlier this year, the pilot flew the F-35B in the 2019 Beaufort Air Show in South Carolina. In a Marine Corps video, Zastoupil said he'd never flown in a plane until he was a junior in high school, but he "just fell in love with being in the air."

"Then what did I want to do? I wanted to fly jets for the Marine Corps," he said. "What's cooler than flying jets for the Marine Corps, right? You get to fly from ships, you get to come back and land. ... You get to fly the most technologically advanced aircraft in the world."

Zastoupil and the rest of the new Blue Angels members are set to kick off their training in mid-November.

N.W. Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. P. O. Box 1213 Shalimar, FL 32579



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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.

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

Life Membership Dues\*\*

| Age       | Dues       | Age        | Dues   |
|-----------|------------|------------|--------|
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| 96-100    | 50.00      | 66-70      | 275.00 |
| 91-95     | 75.00      | 61-65      | 295.00 |
| 86-90     | 110.00     | 56-60      | 335 00 |
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