



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 27 No. 08 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services AUGUST 2021

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 5 Aug 2021
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Legislative Update:
Lessons Learned by a Freshman
Rep Patt Maney (BG Ret)

Please:

- **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:
\$14.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at www.nwfmoe.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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Patt Maney: Our Freshmen Representative

By Michael Griffith

Our August meeting will feature a briefing from one of our own NWFMOA members; Florida State Representative Patt Maney. Most of us are familiar with Rep. Maney's previous talk on Veteran's Courts, which he helped to create during his tenure as an Okaloosa County Judge, and were based on his own experiences recovering from wounds, including traumatic brain injury sustained in the Middle East while serving as a flag officer in the US Army.

Brig. General / Judge / Representative Maney is definitely someone who has been there and done that, and he will tell us about his experiences and accomplishments as a freshman member of the Florida House of Representatives earlier this year.

In early July, Rep. Maney gave a similar briefing to the Republican Women of Niceville. At that meeting, he said one of his first duties as a newly elected legislator was to attend "Legislative University" – a three week, five hours per day orientation and training session for new legislators, conducted through a series of Zoom meetings.

Among bills passed during this year's legislative session, Maney said, was



**FL Representative
Patt Maney (BGen Ret)**

a bill to protect schools and nonprofit organizations from liability for adhering to CDC guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Legislative bills he helped to get passed, Maney said, included a "Purple Star School" bill, providing incentives to public schools to welcome and assist children of military families. Another was a "grandparent tuition bill," which recruits Florida grandparents to invite their grandchildren who live in other states to attend Florida colleges and universities. The bill provides such

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From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

At our August meeting, we will follow up on last month's reading of the Declaration of Independence by reading the three seldom-sung verses of our National Anthem, especially the "controversial" third verse which has lately caused some stir, especially in Olympic circles.

It seems that there are those who would like to cancel the National Anthem, and perhaps replace it with something else. We, the People of the United States, have the right and power to do that if we choose, but before we do, shouldn't we be sure to understand what the current Anthem is really all about?

It seems that lately, America has gotten a little out of balance, with too much Pluribus and not enough Unum. We often claim that diversity is our greatest strength, and that is usually true, but it becomes our greatest weakness if we allow the things that divide us to overpower the things that unite us. So, what are the things that unite us?

Some of our current conflict stems from a lack of understanding of our country's origins and founding principles, and from misunderstanding the old-fashioned language used in many of our historic and founding documents.

As current and former military officers, we have sworn to support and defend our Constitution. I think part of that duty includes understanding the Constitution and being able to explain and discuss it with our fellow citizens, especially with our own children and grandchildren. This also applies to other historic documents and key principles that make America special.



**Mike Griffith,
NWFMMA President**

Continued on page 4

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members:

Dorothy Byron, Surviving Spouse

In Memorium

Fred R. Boyer, Lt Col, USAF (RET), 6/16/2021

Lucien Byron, Col, USAF (RET), 7/6/2021

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our annual Military Ball will resume this year and is scheduled for 9 December 2021 at the FWB Yacht Club. The dinner menu will be similar to the last Ball in December 2019. At that time we charged our members and guests \$55 per person. This year we may have to up the price slightly due to the rise in costs of food, but we are waiting for the manager of the Yacht Club to give us his best estimate first. We will start placing the ticket order form in the Defender in October.

The Band at our Ball will be the Purple Monkey. They are led by Vanessa Bond and are composed of five mostly retired or active military people, including Vanessa who was a test engineer in the Test Wing at Eglin. She has agreed to perform for four hours from the start of the social hour, through dinner, and for after dinner dancing. They play all types of music, some Christmas music, and also patriotic like "God Bless the USA". A good fit for our crowd. Vanessa has requested that we tell her what kinds of music we desire, and they will make an attempt to learn these songs before the Ball. So if anyone has any specific songs they would like to hear that night, please let us know by emailing me (Karl Eschmann, phanfix@cox.net) or Dick Solt at richdulce@aol.com.

Just to refresh everyone's memory on the Ball Night's program, it will look like this:

1800: Social Begins (Silent Auction begins)

1845: Call to Dinner

1900: Opening Remarks by President, presentation of colors, and toasts

1920: Dinner is served

2000: Break

2015: Dancing to Purple Monkey music

2100: Silent Auction winning tickets announced by Dave Parisot

2115-2200: More dancing to music

At some point soon, Dave Parisot should be soliciting for items and gifts from businesses and individuals for the Silent Auction raffle.

We hope to see as many of you all as possible this year!

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

IT IS MORE THAN MONEY

I'm sure in your life you have met individuals who have gone the extra mile. There are times when you go out to eat, receive a delivery, get your car serviced, or someone unexpectedly surprises you with assistance when you had a need. Most often their generous acts of human kindness concludes with "that's ok, I don't want anything; I'm glad I could help."

At times like these, Mary and I like to acknowledge them directly on how well they did and to give them, in addition to their tip, a two dollar bill. We thank them for the great service. We then look 'em in the eye and hand them a 1976 \$2 bill and tell them "it always takes two people to make things happen; put it in your Bible and give them to your grandchildren. They don't make them anymore." The reactions always surprise us.

So let me share a few. A truck driver rolled in with his 18 wheeler to drop off a love seat. He was in his mid-thirties, tall and pleasant. After he completed unloading the furniture, we thanked him, gave him a soda and said, "You are a careful and professional worker. We like to thank you with a two dollar bill for such exceptional work." "Wow, wow, wow! I only saw one of these at my grandmother's home a few years ago. Is this really for me? Wow she will be really surprised when I show her. Oh man, maybe I'll give it to her for her 80th birthday next month." He shook our hands and climbed up in his truck and headed down the gravel road and over the Adirondack Mountain pass.

A month later, my mother, siblings and I were going out to celebrate my elder sister's birthday at a dinner theater. After the show, we gave each waitress a two dollar bill. One was puzzled. "Is this monopoly money? Where do these come from? Is this real?" My mother laughed, squeezed her hand, and told her "It is real, honey."

Finally, and the best was a Lowes store worker who carried out 10 bags of mulch, stones and fertilizer. As I opened my wallet he exclaimed, "Sir, we are not allowed to take tips for loading cars." So I paused and said, "I'm not going to give you a tip as it goes against store policy, but I want to give you my pastor's calling card which happens to state 'In God We trust' that will let you know that to make it in this world one needs God; it takes two to get to heaven." His response was "In that case I will accept it, but I have never seen one of these before. Is this really for me? I really appreciate it. I stopped going to church a

while back. Maybe this is a reminder to start attending again." Several weeks later, we were again at Lowes heading out to the parking lot. He was returning from a carryout and came over to us and said, "I remember you two" and he opened his wallet and showed me how he neatly folded the two dollar bill. "All my friends wanted it; they can't believe I got it; thank you again chaplain."

A year later when we repeated our spring purchases; he opened his wallet and showed us another he received. As he smiled, he said "I took a few Sunday's off to take my family to church. We got a lot out of it, especially the kids. They are signed up for Vacation Bible School."

So it's not just about the money, its rarity or its value; it's our way of letting others know that their random act of human kindness is appreciated. It is also a believer's way to honor God by saying it always takes two-we need each other and we need God.

There are many creative ways to affirm individuals and to tell stories that reflect a 'wiser view' of the life's important values and pivotal relationships.

You can employ your own-half dollars, presidential or military coins, small crosses or little angel pins. Tie it in with your family, church or the military. Together we can find new ways to be generous and acknowledge the hard work of the exceptional. As Randy Travis sings "It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you, it's what you leave when you are gone."

SO WHAT'S IN YOUR BILLFOLD?

Happy Birthday Coast Guard!!!

Coast Guard Marching Song

We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through surf and storm and howling gale,
High shall our purpose be,
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,
Our fame, our glory, too.
To fight to save or fight and die!
Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you.

Privacy and Your Prescription Container

By Scott Berry

Am I the only one who's concerned about privacy in the internet age? I think not. Perhaps I've lost the battle already but I am still quixotic about limiting what strangers know about me.

A good example is my prescription container. It's recyclable. We're a tree-hugging household so we dispose of it accordingly. But even if you just trash it, there's a lot of your personal information included on the prescription label. Containers from Eglin even include your full birthdate. So do you recycle/discard them with all that information in plain sight?

We don't. For some time, we've used a permanent ink marker to cover our names and birthdates. We also cover the barcode with ink lines that go in the same direction as the barcode lines. But what about the QR code—that square with all the chicken-scratching (that was invented by a Japanese car company if that interests you)?

It took a rainy day and boredom to pique my interest. My iPhone has an app that reads QR codes but I needed to download another app to read barcodes. And what did I discover?

Scanning the QR code takes you to an internet site that provides all the details about your medication but doesn't include any of your information. The barcode reveals your prescription number printed on the label and includes several additional digits not on the label. Don't know what they're for but searching the internet using the entire number revealed nothing.

So you can rest assured that the QR code and barcode don't disclose anything about you. It's your decision whether to conceal the other information.

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.

President's Pen (cont.)

Continued from page 2

I am not saying that military officers should meddle in partisan politics. However, when each of us first put on a uniform, we made a fundamental political statement – that the United States of America is worth fighting for. Well, is it?

As for me, I stand for the National Anthem and salute the flag, precisely because I do not have to. I live in a free country, where no one has the power to force me to do such things unless I believe it is right.

Today, some Americans, perhaps including a few of our own children and grandchildren, do not think America is worth fighting for after all.

If we, who have fought, and may fight again for our country, cannot or will not explain why America is worth fighting for, who will?

Patt Maney (cont.)

Continued from page 1

students with in-state tuition rates, in hopes that when the students graduate, they will remain to pursue their post-graduate careers in Florida.

Some recently passed bills with local impact, he said, included state funding for projects to control storm water and provide traffic analysis in Fort Walton Beach, renovation of a public safety building in Crestview, a flood control project in Destin, and a veteran success program at Northwest Florida State College. Also passed was an appropriation for \$150,000 for mental health care in Okaloosa County, and an \$854,000 project to build an agricultural extension facility in southern Okaloosa County.

We can all look forward to what he has to tell us in August, and to a lively and well-informed question and answer session with our elected representative.

See you then.

Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

Update: 2021 MOAA Community Grant to help young enlisted families

In the May Defender, we announced NWFMoa's receipt of two Community Grants from the MOAA Foundation, i.e., a MOAA Community Grant of \$2,500 and a MOAA COVID-19 Relief Grant of \$1,250. Both of these grants, totaling \$3,750, will be used to purchase commissary gift cards for young airmen and soldier families at Eglin, Hurlburt, and the 7th Special Forces Group (A). In addition, attendees at the May 6th Scholarship Luncheon and the June luncheon donated an additional \$1300 to this cause for a grand total of \$5,050. A big 'NWFMoa Thank You' to all of you who donated to this community service project. With your donations, we are able to purchase 59 more commissary gift cards this year than we did in 2020 (202 vs. 143).

On July 14th, Chapter Treasurer George Colton and I visited the Eglin Commissary and purchased 202 commissary gift cards valued at \$25 each. These gift cards will be distributed to needy enlisted families in grades E-4 and below via the First Sergeants Councils at Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and the 7th Special Forces Group (A), and the Hurlburt Airman and Family Readiness Center in lieu of holding a food drive. I am currently coordinating with these groups for presentations in August 2021.

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Right Chest: Name

Colors: Black, Navy, Light Blue, Forest Green, Royal Blue, Red, & White. Women: Also Pink, Lime, & Purple.

Price: \$30ea. plus \$10 shipping per package (paid in advance).

Contact: Dan Brown, 850-450-5554 or e-mail brownaandd@hotmail.com



Got a Chapter question?

Change in personal info?

Comment?

Don't know who to ask?

Email: info@nwfmoe.org

We'll get an answer for you.



Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

Activities with the Scholarship Fund generally slow down during the summer months, and this year has been no exception. As we move into the fall and colleges start their Fall 2021 classes, we should be processing, i.e., paying out, the scholarships we awarded in May 2021 along with a few 'carry-overs' from our 2020 scholarship winners. Due to COVID-19 impacts on students being able to attend classes in person and particularly impacts on the ROTC programs at various colleges, we have allowed our scholarship winners for 2020 and 2021 to have a 2-year period to claim their scholarships.

Although activities are slow, rest assured that we are still accepting donations to the Scholarship Fund program. Please see the donation form in the Defender.

The 50/50 raffle at the July luncheon meeting was won by Bill Byerley. Total ticket sales were \$140 with \$70 to Bill and \$70 to the Scholarship Fund. My thanks to Fred Westfall for conducting the raffle in my absence, and thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets.

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 2019 and 2020 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets. [Note: (R) means Renewal of membership.]

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 & Irene 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 & Charlotte Eschmann (Oct 2018); Carol Baker (Jan 2019); Ann Adelsperger (Feb 2019); Don Litke (August 2019); Fred Boyer (August, 2019). Dr. Keith 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 (April 2021); and, Scott & Janet Berry (May 2021).

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): August 2020: Janet (Ryan) Taylor (R) (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); Donald Litke (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); and Eileen Arpke (R). September 2020: Doug Hardin (R) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk); October 2020: WWII Vet Sam Lombardo (R) (In memory of Jean Lombardo); Nick Marotta (R); George Colton (R); November 2020: Bob Gramm (R); Larry Tashlik (R); Howard Fisher (R); and Janet (Ryan) Taylor (R); December 2020: Robert "Pete" Peterzen (R); Dennis Phillips (R); Craig Miller; Jesse & Kathy Bush (R); Larry Bush (R); Scott & Janet Berry (R); Patrick Boab (R); and, Jeffrey Watson; Kay Dent (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); Bob Garcia (R); Karl & Charlotte Eschmann (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); Chris Beam (R); Les Matheson (R); Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Mrs. Chong Parisot); and, Patt & Caroline Maney. January 2021: Fred Westfall (R); Janet (Ryan) Taylor (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); February 2021: Rod Gerdes (R); and Chris Beam (R); March 2021: Dave Davis (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day); Fred Boyer (R) (In honor of Marlene Bosak); Joy Houck (R) (In memory of Maj. Stanley Houck); April 2021: Dr. Keith Kulow (R); Kevin Kirby; May 2021: Larry Bush (R); Patrick Boab (R); Al Bills (R); Scott & Janet Berry (R); Dick Solt (R); June 2021: Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Lt.Col. Sam Lombardo).

2019/2020 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): October 2019: Shalimar Cheers Pub (\$1,000) (R).

2019/2020 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): December 2019: Eglin Federal Credit Union (R); Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass, Senior Financial Advisors) (R); Silver Slipper Casino Hotel (Bay St. Louis, MS) (In-Kind); May 2021: Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass).

2020/2021 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2019: Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind, R); December 2019: Rocky Bayou Golf Course (In-kind, R).

2021 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): R); May 2021: Eye MD of Niceville (R)

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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Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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. Donor Information (if not printed on check):

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Make Checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn. Inc. Check here is you do not want your ☐ name, ☐ phone number, or ☐ email address listed in the 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**

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