



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 29 No 12

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

December 2023

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thursday 7 December 2023
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: OPUS ONE, Niceville's premier choral group.

MAKE A RESERVATION

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

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at <http://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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Our December Meeting Will Once Again Feature Niceville's OPUS ONE.

December 7, 1941 holds a special significance to Americans, especially to our military family. But more locally focused, our December 7th lunch is very special. We will once again enjoy lunch and sing along with Opus One, the Niceville High School choral group that traditionally entertains us with



holiday songs each December. Instead of our 50/50 raffle or asking for contributions for our Commissary Gift Cards for enlisted families, we will be taking up a collection to show our gratitude for the Niceville High School students who have taken the time to come out and entertain us. Except during the COVID years, we have enjoyed being entertained by OPUS ONE for over 13 years! You don't want to miss this special event.

A week later on December 14th, we will again gather together to celebrate the Christmas season when we have our annual Military Ball. The Ball is another great way of enjoying our friendship with one another, sharing memories and hopes for the future, and celebrating this most important time of year. There will be food, music, dancing and a raffle. Read more about the Ball later in this edition. If you haven't done so already, click the graphic on your right to get tickets to this year's ball.



Please join us for our **December 7th** 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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Women's Veterans Memorial Park

NWFMOA was invited to participate in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Commemorative Celebration for the men and women who served during the Vietnam War. The event took place on Sunday, November 5th at the Air Force Armament Museum.

Many NWFMOA Members were in the audience and were called forward and recognized by name with a commemorative lapel pin and certificate.

Fellow NWFMOA Members participating as part of the official party included Jeff Watson (Master of Ceremonies) and Al Stearns (Benediction). Karl Eschmann and Patrick Johnson were part of a panel of five speakers and shared their experiences while serving in Vietnam. After presenting, they answered questions from the audience. I too was one of the five speakers. I spoke from my experience as a military dependent whose Dad went to Vietnam. My comments follow.

My name is Brig Gen Fran Hendricks, USAF Retired, and I am the proud son of SFC James A. Hendricks, United States Army, a WW II and Vietnam War Veteran. I was 13 years old and going into the 8th grade when Dad received orders for Vietnam. It was 1969.

On the same tarmac in Williamsport, PA as my Dad kissed and hugged us all goodbye, he took me aside and said, "I need you to be the man of the house while I am away on duty". I say the same tarmac, because 4 years earlier when I was just 9 years old and going into the 4th grade, he gave me the same charge when he was headed to Korea for a year. This time, though it was different. This time, I was older and more aware of what was happening. This time, he was going to war.

Dad served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. His tour of duty was cut short due to severe injuries he sustained because of an explosion at the base camp he was assigned. He would be medivac home and spend the next year in Walter Reed and Valley Forge VA hospitals recovering from his injuries.

I distinctly remember my Mom staying with him for the duration of his recovery. My brother, two sisters, and I stayed with my Aunt and would visit Dad at least twice a month for the next year. When we would arrive at the hospital, he would assign each of us a room and soldier to visit. Dad worried about these young men on his ward. He worried that for many the distance to travel for their families and girlfriends was too far or their schedules were too busy. Or the sights of their broken bodies were too much to bear. He didn't want them to be alone. He wanted them to know he cared about them and their successful recovery. I did not know at the time the tremendous impact this would have on me, my brother, and sisters. And the lives and career choices we would make.

Dad was finally discharged from the hospital and retired from the Army. 25 years in the Service. Two Wars...WWII and Vietnam.

When I went off to college, Dad would occasionally come to campus to visit me. When he did, he always seemed to find students who were pursuing their degrees through the GI Bill.

Long after he returned home, these Veterans would seek me out and ask me about my Dad. How is he doing? And please tell Sarge I am doing fine. When I would go home on break, Dad would always ask about the Student Veterans, by name. He would ask, how are they doing? Tell them if they need anything to call him.

Dad never talked of combat. He didn't watch war movies. But when I decided to pursue a commission and was commissioned a 2LT our conversations changed and often centered on leading men in combat. What it means to be in charge and responsible for others.

My Dad never got over how the men who fought and served during the Vietnam War era were treated when they returned home. He once told me when he came home from WWII there were ticker tape parades. Today, they come home after fighting a War their country sent them to fight and are spat on, cursed out, and or forgotten. They lost their youth and now carry the scares of War.

While my Dad passed away 4 months after I was commissioned, not a day goes by that I don't think of the example he set in leading and caring for his men. It was his service and our front row seats that shaped me, my brother, and my two sisters. My brother would also serve in uniform. He retired from the Air Force after 20 years as a MSgt. One of my sisters served an enlistment in the Army, before she and my other sister pursued careers in nursing. My Dad's service also impacted my son and my brother's son as both have served and continue to serve in uniform.

The Vietnam War impacted our entire Nation. For all those who served during those tough times, know this, you are an inspiration to all who have followed your lead. It is an honor for me to be here today and share this stage with each of you and to continue to be inspired by your service. To quote Henry the Fifth when he was talking to his men, he said, "From this day to the ending of the world, we in it shall be remembered, we lucky few, we Band of Brothers. For he who today sheds his blood with me, shall be my brother."

To the men and women who served during the Vietnam War, yes, from this day to the end of time, we remember your service and sacrifice. Each of you answered your Nation's call. Each of you is a hero. So, when the naive or uninformed ask, why did you serve, quote them the following from Homer, the Illiad. "Without a sign, his sword the brave man draws, and asks no omen, but his country's cause."

God Bless America and God Bless the Men and Women and the families of those who serve and sacrifice to keep her free. God Bless the DAR for all their efforts to bring this long overdue recognition to those who served during the Vietnam War.

Thank you.

The opportunity to partner with the DAR on this important recognition ceremony was both an honor and a gift as we gathered to honor all who served during the Vietnam War. The DAR called many NWFMOA Members' names as they conducted a roll call.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, thank you for your service. We will never forget the sacrifices you and your families made.

A Call to Action 23-05

Tell Congress to Pay Our Troops

We recently averted a government shutdown but a new one is looming. As the start of a new fiscal year draws closer with no agreement in place to fund the government, service members, veterans, and their families face uncertainty, financial stress, and an erosion of trust in their lawmakers – all during a recruiting and retention crisis for the all-volunteer force.

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA president and CEO had plenty to say about the impacts of a government shutdown:

“Military members and their families volunteer and are honored to serve and make the needed sacrifices, but they don’t and should not expect to sacrifice their financial security, The all-volunteer force is the backbone of our nation’s national and economic security. We depend on them and hold them accountable ... they want and deserve the same dependability and accountability from the elected members of Congress who are charged with supporting them ... Government shutdowns and uncertainty of pay and benefits directly contribute to our current recruiting crisis,”

The Pay Our Troops Act HR 5641 would protect military service members and certain Department of Defense civilian employees, contractors and Coast Guard personnel should Congress fail to reach an agreement on a Continuing Resolution in time to prevent any disruption to covering the costs of housing, food security, childcare, medical expenses and other routine daily costs.

Congress has grappled with passing timely annual appropriations for a quarter-century; this year is not any different, and it’s critical for our members to let their lawmakers know that change is long overdue.

Our Senators have indicated their support for this measure, but they still need to be urged to rally their colleagues and see that this bill reaches the finish line and is signed into law.

A more direct request is needed for our House delegation.

Even if a CR does pass to avoid a shutdown, it will have a deadline just a few months downstream. HR 5641 will extend the protection until a permanent funding bill is passed.

[CLICK TO TAKE ACTION: Urge Your Elected Officials to Support the Pay Our Troops Act](#)

Please click on the link above to send a letter to each of our Senators and Congressman. If the drafted letter appears with my name on the bottom, please change it to your name. Also add after your name... Member NWFMOA. We want them to know MOAA and NWFMOA are a forces to be reckoned with. Thank you.

H2S,

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired

Never Stop Serving

Save The Date

Annual MOAA Military Ball, 14 December 2023

Our annual Military Ball will resume this year again and is scheduled to be on Thursday, 14 December 2023 at the FWB Yacht Club. The dinner menu will be similar to the last Ball in December 2022. This year we will again be charging our members and guests \$60 per person. The ticket order form will be in the digital Defender starting this month. Just a reminder: the dress for the men at the Ball is Mess Dress (if it still fits), formal, tuxedo or business suit. For the ladies it is Gown or Cocktail Dress.

The Band at our Ball will be the Brighton Street Band. They are led by Doug Chambers and are composed of three Band Members. They have agreed to perform again for four hours from the start of the social hour, through dinner, and after dinner dancing. They play all types of music, not real loud, some Christmas music, and also patriotic songs. A good fit for our crowd. So if anyone has any specific questions about the Ball, please email either 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; Pay as you go Bar; Soft Band music (Raffle begins)
- 1845: Call to Dinner
- 1900: Opening Remarks by the MC, Invocation, presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, President's Remarks and toasts
- 1920: Dinner is served (soft music by the band)
- 2000: Break
- 2015: Dancing to Brighton Street Band music
- 2100: Raffle winning tickets announced
- 2115-2200: More dancing to music

We hope to see as many of you all as possible this year, as well as active military and other guests at our event! We need your attendance and support for the Ball to have a good social setting for our members to start the Christmas Season! Please send in your checks and ticket forms by the end of November so we can turn in the estimated number of meals for the yacht club staff.

We will be soliciting for items and gifts from businesses and individuals for the Raffle fundraiser event during the Ball. Starting in October, please bring any items of donations into the luncheon and we will collect them. We do need to fill our adult beverage crates so we have several to auction!

Click to get your tickets 



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). 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 winner from the hat.

Last month the winner of the quiz was **Mike Griffith**. Congratulations Mike!

Click the link below to get to the quiz. The winner will be announced at the next meeting.

[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](#).

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

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar



T'is a gift to be simple, tis a gift to be free..." the Shaker song says. As the years move on and the odometer measuring my age rolls over again, I find the desire to live a more simple, uncomplicated and peaceful life.

As the new year is dawning, I'm grateful to God, my family and friends who helped enrich my life. Hopefully I made a difference in theirs.

Mary and I have found godliness with contentment. Between Christmas and New Years, we 'weed out' our wardrobes and material stuff. We look at emails and texts and work to "unsubscribe" to unhelpful ones. We look at items and say "We haven't used it and do not need it, then give it to the airmen attic so other military families can enjoy." It's time to trim the fat off the meat.

We are clearing and shrinking our belongings physically. This becomes the groundwork and approach to help us clear our spiritual and mental house- a return to solid Biblical beliefs and simplicity in daily life experiences.

What are the cornerstone beliefs that bind us together? One such pillar is the Nicene Creed. It was a part of our weekly Sunday service liturgy in the Air Force chapel. It was the nutshell catalyst that united families and individuals from diverse religious backgrounds together. This creed gave all of us the critical tenets of faith-the common ground of belief. We recited it for our personal faith walk and for our public affirmation with other members in the family of God. It was a longer alternative to the Apostle's Creed.

As we gather this Christmas, I offer this basic Christian creed that is foundational in many denominations. I laid it out so you could read it solo or responsively as you share your morning gift session or luncheon feast. Sit beside your nativity crèche. Let it remind us all why we celebrate this holy week. Let it rebind us vertically to God and horizontally to each other. Let it be our memorized compass before our quiet prayer and study times. Now that's a gift worth giving, and a tradition worth sharing with family and friends!

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

* THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, OF THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE.

WE BELIEVE IN ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD ETERNALLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER

* GOD OF GOD LIGHT OF LIGHT TRUE GOD OF TRUE GOD BEGOTTEN NOT MADE.

OF THE SAME NATURE OF THE FATHER

* BY WHOM ALL THINGS CAME INTO BEING, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE.

WHO FOR HUMANITY AND FOR OUR SALVATION CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,

* WAS INCARNATE, WAS MADE HUMAN, WAS BORN PERFECTLY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

BY WHOM HE TOOK SOUL, BODY AND MIND AND EVERYTHING THAT IS IN MAN,

* TRULY AND NOT IN SEMBLANCE.

HE SUFFERED, AND WAS CRUCIFIED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE

* HE SUFFERED DEATH, WAS BURIED, ROSE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.

* HE IS TO COME AGAIN IN GLORY TO JUDGE THE LIVING, AND THE DEAD, OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END.

WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD THE GIVER OF LIFE,

* WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND SON, WITH THE FATHER AND SON HE IS WORSHIPPED AND GLORIFIED

WHO SPOKE THROUGH THE LAW, PROPHETS AND GOSPELS, WHO CAME DOWN UPON THE JORDAN

* PREACHED THROUGH THE APOSTLES AND LIVED IN THE SAINTS.

WE BELIEVE ALSO IN ONLY ONE UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC AND HOLY CHURCH,

* WE ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM IN REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSION AND THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS,

AND IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, IN THE EVERLASTING JUDGMENT OF SOULS AND BODIES

* AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND IN THE EVERLASTING LIFE.

WRITTEN AT THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA, 325 AD

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.

Officers Call

Our next officers call will be on November 30 @ 1700, Doc's Oyster Bar, 303 Glen Ave, Valparaiso, FL.



[CLICK FOR DIRECTIONS](#)

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

None 😊

New Members

None 😞



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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.

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.



Click the link below to sign up for the MOAA Newsletter

https://bit.ly/moaa_newsletter

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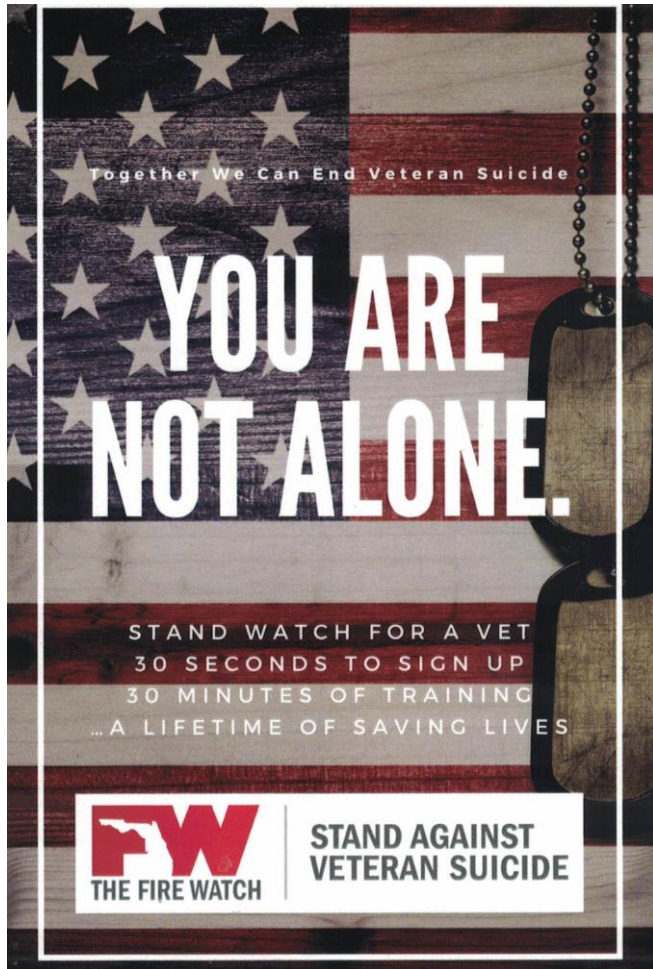
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From the NWFMOA

Never Stop Serving

Help Prevent 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 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
904.634.9420 | INFO@THEFIREWATCH.ORG



STAND WATCH. SAVE LIVES.

Community Outreach

By: Dave Parisot



NWFMOA has clothing booth at Veterans' Stand Down; FWB Veterans' Day Service; NWFMOA presents Commissary Gift Cards for Junior Enlisted Families; and, Wreaths Across America

November was a busy month for our Chapter's Community Outreach programs. Okaloosa County held its annual **Veterans' Stand Down** on Wednesday, November 8th, at the FWB Fairgrounds. Our NWFMOA Chapter was one of 40 local organizations who provide services for Veterans with a booth at this event. In our booth, we had over 1,000 items of new clothing which we purchased via the \$2,800 in grant funds we received last May from the **MOAA Foundation's Community Outreach Grant program**. Our inventory of clothing items distributed to male and female Veterans consisted of 57 pairs of men's and ladies' jeans, 10 pairs of sport pants, 32 men's T-shirts, 43 ladies' shirts, 75 pairs of men's boxer shorts, 4 jackets, 71 hoodies for men and women, 40 pairs of shower shoes, 96 sets of stocking caps & gloves, and 612 pairs of crew socks (men and women). The clothing items were primarily oriented towards the up-coming colder months. The clothing items were distributed to over fifty local Veterans.

Our NWFMOA booth was manned by members **Dave Parisot, Dick Solt, Fran Hendricks, and Karl Eschmann**. We sincerely thank the MOAA Foundation for providing the funds to purchase the clothing items.



The NWFMOA booth at the Veterans' Stand Down on Nov. 8th at the FWB Fairgrounds distributed over 1,000 items of clothing to men and women Veterans.

The city of Fort Walton Beach held their annual **Veterans' Day service** indoors at the American Legion on Hollywood Blvd. on November 11th due to rain. Chapter member, **Lt. Col. Frank Roberts, USAF, Ret.**, opened the service with his reading of "In Flanders Field" by John McRae, a Lt. Col. Surgeon in the Canadian Army after World War I (see photo). The poem honors fallen soldiers from WWI, including 368 fallen American service members, and reads as follows: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow; Between the crosses, row on row; That mark our place, and in the sky the larks bravely singing, fly; Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the Dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders fields. Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die, We shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields."



Lt. Col., USAF, Ret. Frank Roberts recited the poem "In Flanders Field" at the FWB Veterans' Day Service.

JROTC cadets from the Fort Walton Beach High School formed the Honor Guard that presented the Colors during the service (see photo). Earlier on Saturday morning, the JROTC cadets placed over 1800 flags on the grave sites of Veterans interred at the Beal Cemetery. The guest speaker at the event was Brig. Gen. Jeffrey T. Geraghty, Commander of the 96th Test Wing at Eglin AFB.

FWB JROTC Honor Guard members Cadets Jade Bralley, Mikhail Leroy, Javon Pritchett, and Angelina Romano prepare to present the Colors at the FWB Veterans' Day Service.



On November 14th and 16th, our **Chapter presented Commissary gift cards for junior enlisted families at Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base** (see photos below). This is the fourth consecutive year that NWFMOA has done this project to assist young military families. Started in 2020 with a grant of \$3,575 from the MOAA Foundation and donations by Chapter members, our Chapter provided 143 Commissary gift cards of \$25 each to enlisted families of ranks E-4 and below through the First Sergeants Associations at Eglin, Hurlburt, and the 7th Special Forces Group (A), and via the Commando Airman & Family Support Group at Hurlburt Field. In 2021 we continued this project with a grant of \$3,750 from the MOAA Foundation plus \$1,300 in donations by Chapter members for a total of \$5,050. With these funds we purchased and distributed 202 Commissary gift cards at \$25 each to junior enlisted families.

With the positive feedback we received from the multiple First Sergeant Associations, we continued this program in 2022 and 2023. The MOAA Foundation Grant in 2022 was \$4,000, plus we added \$2,375 of local member and business donations for a total of \$6,375. This allowed us to purchase and distribute 255 gift cards. Our MOAA Foundation grant for this program in 2023 was \$1,500, but we added \$6,000 in donations from Chapter members and local businesses for a total of \$7,500. The 300 Commissary gift cards were distributed as follows: 75 cards each to the Hurlburt Field First Sergeants Association (\$1,875); Eglin First Sergeants Association (\$1,875); and, 7th Special Forces Group (A) First Sergeants Association (\$1,875). We also gave 25 gift cards to the 919th SOW First Sergeants Council (\$625) and 50 gift cards to the Commando Airman & Family Support Group at Hurlburt Field (\$1,250). By partnering with these military organizations, we better assure that the neediest junior enlisted families (airmen and soldiers) in ranks E-4 and below receive the food purchase assistance provided.

In the four years we have done this project, we have benefited 900 junior enlisted families. Our sincerest 'THANK YOU' to all who have donated to this program. Current plans are to continue this program in 2024.



Chapter President **Fran Hendricks** presented **MSgt and First Sergeant Penrod** and the **Hurlburt Field First Sergeants Association** with 75 Commissary gift cards of \$25 each on November 14th. Assisting with the presentation are **Dave Parisot**, Chapter Community Outreach Officer and **Karl Eschmann**, Chapter 1st Vice President. Chapter Secretary **Fred Westfall** is the 'man behind the camera'. The gift cards totaled \$1,875.



On November 16th Chapter President **Fran Hendricks**, Community Outreach Officer **Dave Parisot**, and Board member **Bob Gramm** presented 75 Commissary gift cards of \$25 each to MSgt and First Sergeant **Richard Gravely** and the **Eglin Field First Sergeants Association**. The gift cards totaled \$1,875.

[For additional pictures of the presentation of E4 commissary gift cards, click HERE.](#)

Never Stop Serving



On November 14th, Chapter President **Fran Hendricks** presented **Brooke Scott** of the **Commando Airman & Family Support Group** at Hurlburt Field with 50 Commissary gift cards of \$25 each for junior enlisted families in Thanksgiving baskets. The gift cards totaled \$1,250. Assisting Fran were Chapter Community Outreach Officer **Dave Parisot** and 1st Vice President **Karl Eschmann**.

This year's **Wreaths Across America** will be held on Saturday, December 16th, at the Beal Cemetery in fort Walton Beach. This is the second consecutive year that NWFMOA has participated in this program to place holiday wreaths on the graves of Veterans to recognize their service to our country. At the Beal Cemetery alone there are over 1,800 Veterans interred, but in 2022 only about 1,200 received a wreath. Last year we funded 20 wreaths; this year our Chapter increased our purchase to 66 holiday wreaths in partnership with the Choctawhatchee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. If you are available on the morning of Saturday, December 16th, please join us at the Beal Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach to help lay these holiday wreaths on our Veterans' graves. Check local media for the time of the event.



Photo of "Wreaths Across America" at the Beal Cemetery in December 2022.

Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

Firstly, I want to thank Scholarship Fund Board Member and Niceville Senior JROTC Instructor Charles Farmer for writing the Scholarship Fund article for last month's issue. I hope you enjoyed his comments about the Scholarship Fund program from the perspective of a JROTC Instructor and how it impacts on the cadets who receive our scholarships. Thank you, Charles.



In January we start a new year for the Scholarship Program. For 2024 we will again be offering eight (8) scholarships (total of \$26,500) for local JROTC cadets, and two (2) scholarships (total of \$8,00) for local area ROTC cadets in their junior or senior year of college. In May of 2023 we had five (5) of our scholarship awardees receive their commissions as active-duty officers (3 USAF, 1 Army, and 1 Navy Nurse); in May of 2024 three (3) of our scholarship awardees will receive their commissions (2 Army and 1 USAF). These are the results our Scholarship Fund strives for. Our 2024 Scholarship Awards luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at the Fort Walton Yacht Club.

The Scholarship Fund Officers and Directors for 2024 are: President – Dave Parisot (10th year); Secretary-Treasurer - George Colton (10th year); and Directors – Bob Allen (12th year), Fred Westfall (9th year), Karl Eschmann (2nd year), and Charles Farmer, JROTC Representative (2nd year). I want to personally thank the Fund's officers and directors for their years of service of leading and modifying the Scholarship Program policies to get us to where we are today with the increases in both the number of scholarships we are offering and also the dollar value of the scholarships. These two factors, of course, and very dependent on the scholarship donations we receive each year from our Chapter members and local businesses. So, THANK YOU to the individuals and local businesses for your monetary support.

Recent recurring donations to the BG Frank Glunn Century Club were made by **George Colton, Pete Peterzen, Dave Parisot, Keith & Elizabeth Kulow,** and **Tess Bass** of Merrill Lynch. We also have a new Century Club donor in November by **Pat Johnson**. My thanks to each of you for your generous donations. Our scholarship awardees will also appreciate your financial support.

I plan to bring back the 50/50 raffles for the Scholarship Fund in January. For September, October, and November we had donation bags on the luncheon tables for the Commissary Gift Card donations, and at the December luncheon there will be donation bags on the tables for the Opus One choral group from Niceville High School.

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); and, **Dr. (Lt. Col., USAF, Ret,) Fred and Mrs. Jan Westfall Scholarship** (effective 2023).

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 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); and, **Tess Bass** (August 2023) [Note: 40 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): Nov. 2022: **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Pete Peterzen** (R); **Brig. Gen. Patrick Boab** (R); Dec. 2022: **Maj. Gen. Don Litke** (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); **Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (R) (In memory of Brig. Gen. George “Bud” Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Chong Cha Parisot); **Dr. Keith & Elizabeth Kulow** (R); **Larry Tashlik** (R); **Jeff Watson** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Col. Doug Hardin); **Fred & Jan Westfall** (R); **Les Matheson** (R); **Janet Ryan Taylor** (R) (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); January 2023: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Col. Don Panzenhagen); February 2023: **Reddoch Williams** (R); March 2023: **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Rod Gerdes** (R); and **Les Matheson** (R); 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).

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