



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 18 No. 2 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services FEBRUARY 2012

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed. 1 February 2012
Time: Open: 0700; Bkst: 0715; Meeting: 0800-0900
Place: Eglin Bayview Club
Program: Tom Conner;
Publisher, Northwest Florida Daily News
Eglin Bayview Breakfast

Please:

- Make a reservation
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.
 \$7.00 for Club Members
 \$9.00 for Non-Members

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Dan Cobbs at 685-9415 or send an email to: summittk@cox.net if you are attending.

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Twentieth Amendment - Part I

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Prepare to “SPOUT OFF”!

By Ken Wright

“FIRST THE PROGRAM”

We have the pleasure of having Tom Conner, publisher of the Northwest Florida Daily News, as our guest speaker in February. Have you wanted to know how the decisions are made when it comes to the stories selected for printing? Wanted to know whose idea it was to have a “Spout Off” column? Do you scratch your head on some of the editorials written? Want to know Tom Conner’s “Opinion” on things? These questions and the many others you have on your mind about the Northwest Florida Daily News can now be answered. But unlike the Military Ball raffle you must be present to win (ask a question).

“THEN THE OFFICERS CALL”

The quarterly NWFMOA Officers Call is upon us once again. It is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012, at the Eglin Grill & Tavern at 1176 Eglin Parkway North, Shalimar. This will be another great opportunity for all offi-



Tom Conner
 Publisher, Northwest Florida Daily News

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ARE YOUR DUES OVERDUE?

Annual membership dues were due by the end of December. To confirm your membership expiration date look at the mailing label on this copy of The Defender. If one of the top lines includes ‘2011’ you are overdue. If your membership information (address, phone, email, etc.) hasn’t changed simply send a check made out to NWFMOA to NWFMOA, PO Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310. Dues are \$34.00 for regular members or \$17.00 for auxiliary members. If your information is changed, or you are interested in discounts, please include the membership renewal form found in this issue. Prompt payment will save the club money by not requiring us to send out invoices.

President's Corner

“Semper Paratus”

By Ken Wright

We are off and running. The 2012 Executive Board is in place with the assistance of Lieutenant General LeRoy Manor, Jr., USAF (Ret), who officiated the swearing in of Officers and Directors at the January meeting. Gen Manor sent us off with our orders to continue to improve the good of the Chapter, as well as the lives of our fellow service men and women who have served or are serving this great country. As we move forward in 2012, we will continue to stay true to our organizations goals by promoting social welfare in the community, conducting programs to help educate our organization, sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature, and finally, provide social and recreational activities for our members. With these goals in mind, we need your help to further them and your input will be greatly appreciated and encouraged. Many thanks to Tom Rice, the President of the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, for giving us an update on the status of our local Fisher House Project on Eglin AFB. As he noted, the ideal situation would be for the Fisher House to be vacant. However, as our military presence grows, the need for this House will be greatly needed and with the support of our local community and our membership, I am sure the families will get the support they will need. If you have the time to give in support of the Fisher House, please give Tom Rice a call or visit him at his restaurant, the Magnolia Grill. Hope everyone has a great New Year and we see you at the February meeting.



Ken Wright

MEMBERSHIP By Gayle Norgaard

Attention Ambassadors!

Does a person need to be a member of National MOAA to join a local chapter?

The answer is **NO!!!!**



Gayle Norgaard

When you recruit for MOAA, the new member will have the opportunity to receive one year free membership to MOAA. There were 14 new members in 2011. With your help we can increase the numbers in 2012. MOAA's *Give Me Ten* program benefits our local chapter. MOAA incentives and awards to the chapter: \$10 for each new complimentary membership and \$20 for each Life membership. The awards increase with the number of new members recruited. Go Ambassadors Go!

Just a reminder: Recruit a new member for our chapter and **YOU** receive a free breakfast (includes tax, gratuity, and grits).

Member Spotlight



Bill and Ruth Cullen

PUBLIC RECORD

IN MEMORIAM: Lt Col George A. (Bud) Brewer III, USAF (Ret), 12/21/2011.

NEW LIFE MEMBER: Lt Col Jim Story, USAF (Ret).

Missing Column

The most recent *Auxiliary Corner* from MOAA was not available at press time.

Mea Culpa!

By Scott Berry, *Defender* Editor

There were three photos of SSgt James Hickman, USAF, in the last *Defender*. He was a deserving recipient of a Henderson Park Inn gift certificate. Not once, not twice, but on all three occasions I listed his name incorrectly. Protocol 101 taught me the most egregious error is to misspell someone's name. In this case I flunked the final exam. My public apologies to Jim.

Semper Fi!!!



F-35Bs, the Marine Corps version with Short Takeoff/Vertical Landing capability, arrived at Eglin on January 11th. (Photos courtesy of Bill Ryan)

Chaplain's Column

By Sarah A. Shirley, Ch, Maj, FLANG



Chaplain Shirley

Valentine's Day 2012: No Cover-ups Allowed

In 1993 a young woman approached the altar as I anointed people for healing at Wesley United Methodist Church in North Las Vegas, Nevada. She was a little off-center, wild-eyed, and none too anxious for physical contact. A slight woman in her twenties, she was probably resident at one of the nearby group homes, homeless shelters, or city parks. When she heard the offer of healing, she came to the front of the church. Then we ran into a problem. Anointing with oil, a longtime tradition in many churches and a Sacrament in mine, requires the person desiring healing to be touched. Annie was averse to being touched. Seriously averse.

For a long moment we stood there, facing off across the altar rail. Then I said, "Annie, how about if you put your hands on the places where you most want to be healed, and I'll say the prayers. Then I'll anoint a piece of paper for you." Annie agreed, and placing one hand on her head and the other on her heart, she closed her eyes while I prayed for the Holy Spirit to breathe healing power through her entire body, mind, and spirit, and especially into her chaotic head and her broken and frightened heart. Then I found a scrap of paper in my prayer book, and made the sign of the cross on it with oil. I handed it to Annie, saying "May this Holy Unction be an outward sign of an inward and spiritual grace already at work in your body, your mind, and your soul." Annie took the paper and slapped the oiled side of it onto her forehead. After a long moment, she pulled it from her brow, looked into my eyes, and with a slight nod turned and left the church.

She came back the following week, and pocketed my anointing oil. I hope she did a lot of healing out there on the street, anointing lots of scraps of paper. Maybe she even became able to touch others and be touched.

I thought of Annie this week after hearing this story: our hospital's Catholic chaplain reached into his pocket and pulled out a little bottle, held it up for the patient to see, and said, "I am going to anoint you with this and wash all your sins away!" The patient replied, "Father, are you sure? You're going to take care of my sins with that?" The

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Troops-Pay-Healthcare Cuts Coming

Last month President Obama and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta presented an outline which shifts greater attention to the Pacific theater while re-shaping the uniformed services to become smaller, more agile, and less expensive in the years ahead. The eight page report, Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for the 21st Century, was short on specifics of just how the defense department would carry out the \$450 billion in cuts over the next 10 years (and potentially another half trillion dollars under sequestration) and neither the President nor the Secretary were willing to provide any real details.



Bill Van Hoesen

Panetta indicated the cuts would be made in a way that would follow four overarching principles:

- Maintain the world’s finest military;
- Avoid hollowing out the force;
- Generate savings in a balanced manner with everything on the table, including politically sensitive areas; and,
- Preserve a high quality All-Volunteer Force and not breaking faith with our men and women in uniform or their families.

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Florida Area VP Neal Schneider presents MOAA’s Five Star Level of Excellence streamer to past president Bill Van Hoesen

Military Wisdom

“Mankind has a perfect record in aviation - we have never left one up there!”

- Unknown Author -

New Officers for 2012



Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, Jr., (USAF, Ret) administers the oath of office to the chapter’s 2012 officers. From L to R: Gen Manor; President: Ken Wright; 1st VP: Jeff Watson; 2nd VP: Gayle Norgaard; Secretary: Scott Berry; Treasurer: Dan Cobbs; Directors: Eileen Arpke, Bill Van Hoesen, Bob Garcia, and Jim Summitt. Not pictured: Bob Padden, director. (Photo courtesy of Erica Wright)

Chaplain's Column (cont.)

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priest looked at the bottle in his hand. It was White-Out. "Oops, wrong pocket!"

Whatever your religious beliefs, how we deal with the mistakes, hurts, and disappointments of the past can have significant impact on our present and future happiness, wholeness, and well-being. Many of us try the White-Out approach, covering up the things that hurt or embarrass us. The result is generally disappointing...the problem remains and can fester, and whatever we use to cover it over can cause new problems.

An alternative is to allow ourselves to be touched by other imperfect human beings, even if we need a little distance like Annie did. Her head and heart were causing her problems, and she asked to be healed. In return, I was able to accept her and love her on her terms, and not paint White-Out on her shortcomings in order for her to be my friend.

As we celebrate love and romance this month, I invite you to be more open and kind and tolerant of your beloved's shortcomings. I pray that you are your own beloved, and that your spiritual work this month will lead you to be more gentle and compassionate with yourself and others than you have ever been before.

If you have a Valentine's Day story, or an experience of letting the sunlight of the spirit heal a hurt that you had kept hidden, please send Chaplain Shirley an email: sarahshirley@gmail.com, and she will put your success on her gratitude prayer list.




Got a Chapter question?

Change in personal info?

Comment?

Don't know who to ask?

Email: info@nwfmoa.org

We'll get an answer for you.


Legislative Musings (cont.)

Continued from page 4

Panetta went on stating the "country is at a strategic turning point after a decade of war and therefore we are shaping a joint force for the future which will be smaller and leaner, but will be agile, flexible, ready, and technologically advanced." The specifics of their proposal likely won't be known until the President submits his budget request in mid-February. But it was abundantly clear there would be major changes to nearly all facets of defense programs and forces – including end strength and personnel costs. A considerable force drawdown is certain over the next decade – particularly for the Army and the Marines.

Pay and health care cuts are also likely part of the plan as the report calls for "reducing the growth of compensation and health care costs." It's safe to assume some sort of pay freeze or reduced annual pay raises and health care fee increases will make its way into February proposal.

Panetta acknowledged in his opening statement, "savings...will likely provoke opposition from parts of Congress, industry, and advocacy groups." And he's correct.

There's no doubt government spending needs to be curbed to reduce our nation's debt, but MOAA is concerned these cuts, coupled with sequestration, will put a disproportionate burden on those who have already sacrificed so much in service to our nation.

Additionally, MOAA believes the Pentagon plan has their priorities reversed. The new strategy garners big savings from personnel programs and troop cuts, yet is relatively silent on any savings from eliminating redundant programs or improving management and cost overruns of high-profile programs. Hopefully, the President's budget submission will contain such improvements – but we're not holding our breath. We'll provide more details when they become available. (MOAA Legislative Update [legis@moaa.org])

**Bumper Sticker Seen on
 Military Installation**

"Stop Global Whining"

Greetings!

Whew! We made it through another holiday season! We had the entire brood under one roof plus two grandchildren and a large dog with large entourage of fleas. The latter guests created a huge water bill as all the linens got double washed. Coupled



Scott Berry

extra utility needs for my non-green family, our water bill for the period looks like we refilled the Intercoastal Waterway. In addition to the normal holiday duties, my roles as father confessor and chairman of the FDIC (Fatherly Debt-payer In Chief), I started my New Year's resolution of daily exercise but constantly running around the house to turn of fans, TVs, and lights. I've also watched enough Sponge Bob to last for a lifetime. Did I mention my wife and I have never suffered from Empty Nest Syndrome?

All kidding aside, the New Year brings the opportunity to start afresh. In terms of NWFMOA we have a new board of directors with some familiar faces and some new ones. We also have volunteers stepping forward to lead functions that have been dormant for some time. I like that.

As I look back on 2011 I'm pleased to see the amount of activity in the chapter. We've had tours, Officer Calls, and opportunities to make our voices heard on veteran issues. More people are getting involved. That's always healthy for an organization. You'll note a article in this issue seeking volunteers for a "Speakers Bureau" to spread the NWFMOA message. Compensation is the same as the board members and other volunteers receive--a non-monetary warm spot in your heart that you've done something worthwhile. Please consider it.

Berry "OUT"

Say What?

Sarcasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

I'd like to introduce myself as the new chair of the Personal Affairs Committee. On behalf of the chapter, my goal is reach out to chapter members in time of need and especially in working with survivors. As no one has a crystal ball, I solicit everyone's help in telling me about circumstances in their own family or of a fellow chapter member in need of assistance. I can be reached at 651-5049 or through email at jnmd@cox.net.

Spread The Word

Do you like to participate in public speaking? If so, we need your help. Plans are being developed to establish a "NWFMOA Speakers Bureau," the purpose of which will be to make chapter members available to present the MOAA and NWFMOA story to meetings such as squadron, company and battalion officers' calls, and other suitable gatherings.

New members repeatedly tell us one of the primary reasons they did not join MOAA or our chapter previously was because they didn't know we exist. This is particularly true of active duty officers assigned in this area. The speakers bureau will be our "point man" in getting our story out to these potential members and so recruit new members to our organization.

It should be pointed out the average age of NWFMOA membership is approximately 76 and that our membership has dropped more than 100 members in less than three years. If we do not reverse this trend, it will not be many years before this chapter ceases to exist.

Please help us by stepping forward and participating in this new effort. If interested, please contact Bill Van Hoesen at 850.225.2957.



Tom Rice, Fisher House president, explains Fisher House's mission and status to January breakfast attendees.

President's Corner (cont.)

Continued from page 1

cers, active, retired, and former, to meet and have a drink or two with their peers to share stories, network, and good old friendship. I encourage you to bring your spouses or significant others to share in this event. I also encourage you to share the news with fellow officers in hopes they join us and become members. Oh, don't forget, the first couple of drinks to members are free while tickets last. I hope to see you there.



Gen Manor makes comments during chapter installation ceremony

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December 31st of next year for \$34.00.**

Membership Renewal

1 yr - \$34.00, 2 yr - \$65.00, 3 yr - \$85.00

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Age	Dues	Age	Dues
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96 - 99	57.00	66-70	398.00
91 - 95	94.00	61-65	448.00
86 - 90	152.00	56-60	489.00
81 - 85	214.00	51-55	519.00
76 - 80	281.00	-50	549.00

Auxiliary Members

Pay one half of the above rates

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Address City State & Zip Phone

Rank Service MOAA mbr. no. Email address

Regular Reserve National Guard Active Duty Retired

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 automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.