



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 23 No. 05

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

MAY 2017

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 4 May 2017
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
 Program to follow
Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Junior Reserve Officer
 Training Corps
 LTC Michael R. Ramierz, USA (Ret)

Please:

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

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

Officers & Directors

PRESIDENT

Scott Berry 582-0839
president@nwfmoa.org

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Dick Prater 613-6080
2ndvp@nwfmoa.org

SECRETARY

Fred Westfall 609-8075
secretary@nwfmoa.org

TREASURER

George Colton 651-4501
treasurer@nwfmoa.org

Directors

Bob Allen 682-7879
allen@nwfmoa.org

Dan Brown 651-0005
brown@nwfmoa.org

Nick Marotta 954-415-7230
marotta@nwfmoa.org

Dave Parisot 613-6545
parisot@nwfmoa.org

Ken Zepp 321-505-4718
zepp@nwfmoa.org

DEFENDER EDITOR

Larry Williamson 803-322-9515
defender@nwfmoa.org

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

For our program this month, we will be joined by LTC Michael R. Ramirez. He will discuss programs, objectives, and enrollments of the five high school JROTC programs in our area. **The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)** is a federal program sponsored by the United States Armed Forces in high schools and also in some middle schools across the United States and United States military bases across the world.

LTC Michael R. Ramierz, USA (Ret), enlisted in the Reserves in Pensacola, FL in 1986 as a Multi-Channel Telecommunications Equipment Operator. Upon completion of Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, he returned to Pensacola and the University of West Florida and served in the Simultaneous Membership Program while earning a commission through ROTC and was a Distinguished Military Graduate.

After commissioning from the University of West Florida in 1988, LTC Ramirez's first assignment was as an Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations (S3) in the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, the division cavalry squadron for 1st Armored Division in Ansbach, GE. In that capacity, he deployed in 1990 to serve in DESERT STORM—his first of three combat tours. Prior to redeployment he became a platoon

leader with B Troop. In 1991, he returned to the United States and served as the Headquarters Company XO



LTC Michael R. Ramierz, USA (Ret)

and later, as a chemical intelligence officer for the Chemical Center at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD. After completing the Advanced Course, he was assigned to 1st Cavalry Division, Ft. Hood, TX, where he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence (S2) in 1-12 Cavalry Battalion and the Deputy Chief of the Analysis and Control Element.

Following this, he then commanded A Company, 312th MI Battalion. After company command, LTC Ramirez deployed with 1st Cav to serve a year

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From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Official Notice: Proposed Changes to Our Bylaws

Greetings!

For Easter Brunch, Janet and I went with friends to the Soundside at Hurlburt. It was a flashback in several ways. First, it reminded me of the Officer Club buffets I remember of old but we're talking 2017! They had a superb selection of just about everything (although the roast beef and lamb were really overcooked). Second, Karen, the former catering manager at the Eglin O Club (before they made the HUGE mistake to privatize their food service operation), greeted us and gave us our table assignment. Aside from her catering duties while at Eglin, she one time had to play bartender and I distinctly remember my deputy group commander at the time teaching her how to make the perfect martini. It was superb, by the way. But I digress. And finally, I ran into enough NWFMOA members that we almost had a quorum for our own meeting. However, contrary to the first Thursday of the month, this time I got to be part of the peanut gallery and watch others run madly about. Very refreshing.....It was also the first time I'd been on Hurlburt since the overpass was constructed. Great improvement but a little confusing to wind my way to the club.



Scott Berry

Our May presentation is at the heart of our primary outreach effort—the scholarship fund. It's always refreshing to see the enthusiasm in tomorrow's (or maybe next week's) leaders. June will also be a great presentation. Lt Gen Manor returns to talk about the Son Tay raid—which he planned! To do the subject justice, the program will run a little longer than usual but it'll be well worth it. Listening to Gen Manor will give me an

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Our Officers and Board of Directors have recommended a new category of membership called Associate Members. Associate Members are those individuals who are not eligible for Voting Membership or Auxiliary Membership, but who have an interest in supporting and participating in NWFMOA programs and functions.

This change will require a change to our Bylaws. Voting on these changes will be at our May membership meeting.

Please review the current and proposed Bylaw changes on our website. Click the link on the left side of the main webpage or follow this link: <http://nwfmoa.org/bylaws.html>

The proposed changes to our Bylaws are summarized below.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes of Membership

- (a) VOTING MEMBERS.
- (b) AUXILIARY MEMBERS.
- (c) HONORARY MEMBERS.
- (d) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. Those individuals who are not eligible for Voting Membership or Auxiliary Membership, but who have an interest in supporting and participating in NWFMOA programs and functions. Examples would be our business partners and non-member donors to the Scholarship Fund, chamber of Commerce/Military Affairs executives, business leaders/executives, etc. Associate Members are non-voting and by invitation and approval of the NWFMOA Board of directors. Dues shall be the same as for Voting Members in ARTICLE VII, Section 4. Dues.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, DUES

Section 4. Dues

- (a) The annual dues for members
- (b) A Member will be dropped from membership for nonpayment of dues if their dues remain unpaid for a period of 90 days after January 1 of each year. A member who has been dropped for nonpayment of dues or special

PUBLIC RECORD

New Member (Returning):

Bob Penny, CWO3, USCG

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Surviving Spouse Corner: Using Social Media

By Micki Costello, Surviving Spouse
Advisory Committee member

The age of the computer and smartphone has changed the way people communicate and interact with one another. According to an article from Pew Research Center, around 7 in 10 Americans use social media to “connect with one another, engage with news content, share information, and entertain themselves.” And it is commonplace to see individuals walking down the street, sitting at a table, or, unfortunately, driving their cars while using a cell phone.

Social media even gained added emphasis during this past election as a tool for candidates to connect directly with the American people. Some of the more common social media applications include:

Facebook — a social networking site that allows you to connect with friends, family, and peers; share messages, videos, and photos; and like and follow companies, causes, business, etcetera.

Twitter — a social networking site that enables users to send and receive communication in 140 characters or less.

LinkedIn — popular for professionals looking to network, connect with peers, and job search.

Instagram — used to take, edit, share, and view photos and videos.

Snapchat — similar to Instagram in that it’s photo and video focused, but the messages are available for only a short time.

Pinterest — used to create a personal catalog of websites, pictures, ideas, and how-to’s for later use.

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.

To learn more or to get started using social media, visit <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/topics/socialmedia/> and <http://www.socialmediaexaminer.com/getting-started/>.

MOAA has a presence of numerous social media sites. Learn more. As with just about anything, it is necessary to use social media responsibly. Be aware of and know how to edit public profile settings to ensure privacy, and remember it is a choice to do any or none at all.

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (cont.)

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of peacekeeping duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina where he ran the counterintelligence/human intelligence teams for the division. Upon redeployment, he was assigned to the Tank, Automotive, and Armaments Command, Warren, MI, where he served as the Assistant DCS for Intelligence (G2). Following Command and General Staff College, LTC Ramirez was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) at Ft. Stewart, GA, in 2002. He was temporarily assigned to Intelligence and Security Command where he served on an Information Operations field team. That temporary duty was curtailed after six months so that he could return to 3ID to deploy with the division to Kuwait as the G2 Operations Officer.

LTC Ramirez was part of the initial assault on Baghdad in March 2003. On that tour in Iraq, he became the S2 for 1st Brigade/3ID. After redeployment, he became the Executive Officer (XO) for the 3rd Special Troops Battalion—a newly created divisional battalion—where he coined the unit motto, “Forged Through Sacrifice.” As the XO, he deployed with the battalion to Iraq in 2005. Upon redeployment, LTC Ramirez became the S3 for the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Ft. Gordon, GA, where he served for two years. He retired in November, 2008.

LTC Ramirez resides in Pensacola with his wife, Kim. His son, Michael, received an undergraduate degree from, and is working on, his Master’s degree at Auburn University. His daughter, Christa, graduated from Florida State University. He serves as the Senior Army JROTC Instructor at Baker High School, Baker, FL.

See the 2017 MOAA State Report Card and Tax Guide

This year, MOAA has consolidated the annual State Report Card and State Tax Guide. There is a color-coded maps at the website below that assess each state on the taxability of military retired pay and survivor benefits and whether or not states have enacted legislation addressing service member and military family issues tracked by the Defense State Liaison Office. Note that state policies are subject to change. Information is current as of the dates posted on the website. Consult state authorities for additional/more current information.

http://www.moaa.org/statereport/?utm_source=PaidMbrEmail&utm_campaign=StateReportCard&utm_medium=email&preheadertext



Chapter secretary Fred Westfall receives MOAA award for his work on chapter website

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.

NWFMOA Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

“Seven Living World War II Veterans in NWFMOA”

I need to correct last month's article in which I was only aware of six WWII veterans in NWFMOA. Since then, I have learned that we actually have seven (**Lt Col Lewis “Rocky” Heckroth** was not listed) along with a fourth WWII widow [**Ginny Mills** (Major Rodney Mills)]. My apologies for this oversight.

Of our seven WWII veterans, five were able to attend the World War II banquet as our guests on April 7th at the Emerald Coast convention Center. (See the caption under the photo for our Chapter attendees). What a night! To see over 50 local WWII veterans in one room was quite a sight. There were a couple in wheelchairs and a few using a cane, but the majority seemed very spry, elegant, and wore their age well. A great program was put on by the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber and the Eglin Federal Credit Union. Interviews with **Lt Col Dick Cole** (age 101), the sole surviving Doolittle Raider, and two Pearl Harbor survivors, along with a talk by **Lt Gen Leroy Manor, Jr.**, were the highlights of the program. There were about 500 people in attendance to honor these veterans.



NWFMOA WWII Veterans at the April 7th banquet: Lt Col “Rocky” Heckroth, Lt Gen Leroy Manor, Jr, Lt Col Sam Lombardo, Col Bill Colgan, and Col Mel Bryant. Unable to attend were Lt Gen Kelly Burke and Maj Gene Mitchell.

By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

MEMORIAL DAY WITH MY WARRIORS

Baby sprouts slowly sliced upward into America's red clay
 Beige and brown, newborns in incubators and diaper uniforms
 Nurtured and stiffened by firm parents and stern pastors
 Teachers and mentors pulled them up quickly and creatively
 From scouts to soldiers they learned the saint's silent salute
 Wide-eyed idealists reframed and hardened by vintage warriors
 Saturday's sad salutes followed scars; chaplain preceded ashes
 Flags covered the innocent; crosses mark the next sprouts
 Sleep in pride and peace; you're home in the Almighty rainbow

MEMORIAL DAY A YEAR FOLLOWING

Crossed fields, unmoved, stoically speak volumes
 Opening another new pore to a flag covered coffin
 Women and men dutiful, courageous and honorable
 Once proclaimed their patriotism with trained deeds
 Now boldly proclaim their beliefs in silent behaviors
 Mothers and fathers hold hands remembering her birth
 Siblings light unscented candles for the dark migration
 Their tears form a river with wives wingmen warriors
 Who truly know and carry the high cost of freedom
 The sun begins its descent as taps rises to the heavens



Now and Always
We'll be There.

★

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Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

Well, members, the May 4th luncheon will be the culmination of our fund-raising of the past year when we award our 2017 scholarships to JROTC cadets. This year's scholarship winners have excellent academic and community service achievements, and this was the most competitive selections of the past three years. Our May program will emphasize our involvement with our five Okaloosa County JROTC programs with introducing the scholarship winners, a talk on the JROTC programs by Lt. Col.(USA, Ret.) Mike Ramirez of Baker High School, presentation of the scholarships, and announcement of this year's \$3,000 scholarship winner. The remaining cadets each will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Each cadet has also committed to attend their college's ROTC program. Please attend this luncheon and congratulate our winners.

I want to thank our NWFMOA Scholarship Fund Board (**George Colton, Leslie Matheson, Bob Allen, Fred Westfall, and Nick Marotta**) for their participation in the scholarship selections. In addition to the presentations at our luncheon, we also recognize our scholarship winners at each high school's JROTC Awards Program and at each high school's Senior Class Awards Program in order to recognize them with their peers.

Our 50/50 raffle at the April luncheon had \$154 in ticket sales and was won by **Loren Bartley** with \$77 to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who bought tickets for this scholarship fundraiser.

Here's 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 2016/2017 along with our Business Donors. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017).

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: May 2016: **Kristine Sams**. June 2016: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal); July 2016: **Beryl Brenner** (Renewal); August 2016: **Tom Churan** (Renewal); October 2016: **Ruth Cullen** (in memory of William Cullen) (Renewal); **John Feldman** (Renewal); November 2016: **Pete Peterzen**; **Jean Dutton**; **Howard Fisher** (Renewal);

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President's Pen (cont.)

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education on that topic that I've never had as I was still in high school when it occurred.....

Another Officers Call is in the making. The last one enjoyed our best turnout yet. Hope to repeat that.

As president, part of my job description is being the lightning rod for everything that goes well—or doesn't go well. That comes with the territory. However, there are many other people who keep the chapter wheels rotating smoothly. Some of them are listed on the front of the Defender, but there are others, such as the Scholarship Fund members, Personal Affairs, and the gents who take your money at the door every month. Please take a moment to thank them for what they do. Like me, they're grossly underpaid but perform their duties out of love for the organization. A quick pat on the back never hurt anyone, and it might brighten your day as well!

Berry "OUT"

Military Appreciation (cont.)



Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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December 2016: **Karl Eschmann** (in memory of Col. Bud Day) (Renewal); **Frederick Rall** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); January 2017: **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Dick Prater** (Renewal); February 2017: **Carol Baker** (in memory of David Baker) (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Al Bills**; **Dave Parisot** (in memory of Chong Parisot) (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); March 2017: **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **Ron Gerdes**; **Nick Marotta**; **Janet Taylor** (In honor of Bill Ryan); April 2017: **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Don Litke** (in memory of Kay Litke); **Bob Gramm**.

2016/2017 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): December 2016: **Wyndham Vacation Resorts** (In-kind).

2017 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): January 2017: **Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates)**

2016/2017 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2016: **Eglin Federal Credit Union**; December 2016: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club** (In-kind); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind).

2016/2017 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): November 2016: **Gator Lakes Golf Course**; December 2016: **Tammy's Journeys** (In-kind); **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind); **Dr. Wayne Pullen** (In-kind).

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

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

Official Notice (cont.)

Continued from page 2

assessment may be reinstated upon payment of current annual dues or assessments, as the case may be.

(c) The dues schedule for Voting Members and Associate Members is as follows:

1. New Members joining in a given year receive membership through December 31 the following year for \$25.00

2. Membership Renewal: 1 year--\$25.00. 2-year--\$48.00. 3-year--\$65.00

3. Life Membership Dues:

AGE	Dues
101+	Free
96-100	\$50.00
91-95	\$75.00
86-90	\$110.00
81-85	\$150.00
76-80	\$195.00
71-75	\$240.00
66-70	\$275.00
61-65	\$295.00
56-60	\$335.00
51-55	\$360.00
50 & under	\$395.00

4. Auxiliary Members pay half of the above rates.

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):

Name _____

Address _____

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

This gift is a memorial in honor of: _____

Please inform the following of this gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

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


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

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AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social, cultural, professional and service activities that extend from the local to national levels.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Initial _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State & Zip _____

Email Address _____

Rank _____ Service _____ MOAA Mbr. No _____

Regular Reserve National Guard Active Duty Retired

This application is for:

Life Member New Member Renewal Auxiliary Other (specify) _____

Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you do not want your name, phone number or email address listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership includes a subscription to *The DEFENDER* for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.

**The spouse of a deceased life member is automatically an auxiliary life member.

Membership Application/Renewal

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

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

Life Membership Dues**			
Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

Auxiliary Members
Pay half of the above rates

Join Us Today