



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

Vol. 25 No. 05

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services MAY 2019

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 2 May 2019
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200 Program to follow
Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: 2019 Scholarship Awards Cadet Col Cassidy Basset

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 Fred Westfall at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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2019 Annual Scholarship Awards Honoring our JROTC Cadets

By Dave Parisot

Another year has passed and we have a new group of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets who are graduating from high school. Many of these cadets will be entering colleges of their choice, others have already enlisted in the military services, and some are seeking employment or have jobs lined up. Whatever the category, we congratulate all as they finish their high school years and advance to new challenges.

Cadet Colonel Cassidy Basset of the Fort Walton Beach JROTC unit will be our speaker for the May 2nd luncheon. It also will be the first time we've had a JROTC cadet as the guest speaker. Cassidy maintains a 4.5 GPA and ranks in the top four percent of her class. Her rigorous class load includes many Honors and Advanced Placement classes. She is a Viking Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society, and has been on the all A's Honor Roll each year. If you attended last year's Scholarship Luncheon, you may recall that she has an excellent singing voice as she sang our National Anthem. Cassidy will be giving us an encore performance at our May 2nd luncheon.

During Cadet Basset's four years with the Fort Walton Beach H.S. JROTC Corps, she has been a member of and commanded the Color Guard Team, Commander



JROTC Cadet Col. Cassidy Bassett

and Executive Officer of the Kitty Hawk Honor Society, led the Awareness Presentation Team in preparing students at three middle schools for a successful high school experience, and provided over 300 hours of community service, including placement of over 1,800 flags on the graves of military veterans on Veterans and Memorial Days each year. Cassidy Bassett is currently the Commander of her JROTC Corps.

Cassidy was recently selected for an appointment to the 2023 class at the U.S. Air Force Academy where she plans to pursue a degree in Meteorology. Congratulations Cassidy!

From the President's Pen

By Nick Marotta

I'd like to open this article with some great news. The MOAA 2019 Communications Awards have been announced. I am proud to share that the Northwest Florida Military Officers' Association has been awarded a Five Star Rating for Print Newsletter (The Defender) and the Website. A special thank you to Ken Zepp, editor of The Defender and



Nick Marotta

to Fred Westfall, NWFMOA Webmaster. I knew when I submitted these items for the award in February, there was no doubt they were an easy win for the Five Star recognition.

What does this mean to us as chapter members? This is an example of 'continuing to serve'. We are all members of this chapter, and as members we serve, each other, our communities, and ourselves. Keep in mind this chapter is more than a social club, we are a chapter of Military Officers and part of our mission is to keep others informed. These two media tools definitely keep members informed and up-to-date on the latest news.

We have recently added a feature on the NWFMOA website for members to view the latest news items from MOAA. It's a flashing button, 'CLICK HERE/TAKE ACTION'. If you haven't visited the website lately, I urge you to take a look (http://nwfmoa.org); it's quite easy to navigate.

As I'm sure everyone knows, our meetings are usually held the first Thursday of the month; however, in July, in honor of Independence Day we will have the meeting on the 11th.

We are still in need of a Second Vice President. The primary duty of this position is membership. As I wrote in previous issues of The Defender, membership is key in maintaining this organization. Let's get this filled; feel free to call or email me.

The month of May is upon us, so let's have another Officers'

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memorium None New Members: None Call. In February we met, everyone enjoyed, good friends, better fellowship. Please share your thoughts at the May meeting as to when and where. May/June is a good time before the summer hits.

In the January Defender, our most recent chapter President mentioned keeping the momentum of the chapter going. We have by MOAA standards a Five Star chapter. I echoed those words in the February Defender. So, where do we go from here?

In the first four meeting of this year we have had some great speakers including a Director from MOAA. In the very near future, we'll be having leaders from State and Local Governments speak.

We are enjoying great meeting attendance. In my opinion, the momentum is continuing. At our May meeting we will be honoring local JROTC Cadets with scholarships from our NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. Who knows, we may have a few future chapter members in our midst.

We are also part of the community. In 2018, the chapter received a MOAA grant used for the chapter participation in the Veterans Stand Down. This year, we have applied for a MOAA grant that will be used for One Hopeful Place. When this grant is awarded, we the members will have an excellent chance to participate. The grant will fund furniture. The furniture we buy, a few of us members will assemble.

On April 10, a storm was brewing as members from the Military Officers Association of America canvassed Capitol Hill and called on Congress to protect benefits our servicemembers, veterans and military spouses have earned. More than 170 MOAA members from across the country got to work for our annual Storming the Hill event in Washington, D.C. This year, MOAA members met with members of Congress and their staffs in support of a 3.1 percent pay raise for the troops, a total repeal of the "widow's tax", and stabilizing TRICARE.

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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.



By Chaplain Tom Azar

Loving and remembering our Mothers as we remember Memorial Day.

In the Gospel of John Jesus says "Greater love than this no man or woman has than to lay down his or her life for another."

When I reflect on my mother's life it was full of daily sacrifices. The challenges of raising a family of seven, school, sports, church, friendships and her daily dose of love for each of us; plus supporting her husband professor.

Many Americans say to vets "thank you for your service." It is always appreciated, especially from ones who wore the same boots and fought in wars— the 'lived experience' remains the best teacher.

From a chronological perspective Mother's Day began shortly after the Civil War by Julia Ward who wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." She sought to honor mothers. In 1907 Mrs. Anna Jarvis held a service at St Andrews United Methodist Church to honor her mother. It was later officially sanctioned by President Wilson in 1914. (Ironically, Mrs. Jarvis later protested the commercialism that came from Mother's Day and was arrested for disturbing the peace at her opposition rally).

Memorial Day was originally called "Decoration Day." Flags were placed at Northern and Southern graves by women. Politicians, veterans, ministers and especially widows took the time to honor those who demonstrated "No greater love." Women sought to acknowledge the sacrifice, love and commitment of those who paid the ultimate price for our democratic principles and way of life, whether they wore the uniform and took care of their families.

Today women serve side by side with men (18% according to Reuters) and many have given their lives on the battlefield. We chaplains often read from Psalm 91 to the troops before a mission, at a memorial or a national holiday:

"I will say to the Lord, He is my refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust. Because He loves me says the Lord I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life well I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Continued from the front page

Through our NWFMOA Scholarship Fund we help graduating cadets who will be attending college with their expenses. For 2019, the Scholarship Fund Board of Directors selected seven graduating senior JROTC cadets to receive a total of \$16,000 in scholarship awards. Six of these scholarships will be for \$2,000 and one for \$4,000 (the "Lt. Col. James 'Jim' Heavener Memorial Scholarship").

At our May 2nd NWFMOA luncheon meeting we will award this year's scholarships to seven JROTC cadets, who will be our Guests of Honor. The scholarship winners are:

a. Cadet Myles Sellers, Fort Walton Beach High School (USAF JROTC program). Cadet Sellers plans to attend the University of West Florida majoring in Cyber Security.

b. Cadet Sarah Brown, Navarre High School (USN JROTC program). Cadet Brown plans to attend either Belmont University or Florida State University with a major in Nursing and a minor in Biology.

c. Cadet Jakia Gary, Crestview High School (USA JROTC program). Cadet Gary plans to attend either Auburn Montgomery University or Jacksonville University with a major in Nursing and a minor in Sports Medicine.

d. Cadet Esmeraldo Yumul, Jr., Fort Walton Beach High School (USAF JROTC program). Cadet Yumul plans to attend either the University of West Florida or Florida State University with a major in Accounting and a minor in Mechanical Engineering.

e. Cadet Yolanda Stallworth, Niceville High School (USAF JROTC program). Cadet Stallworth plans to attend either the University of Central Florida or the University of South Florida with a major in Political Science and a minor in Pre-Law.

f. Cadet Matthew Horton, Navarre High School (USN JROTC program). Cadet Horton plans to attend Embry-Riddle University or the University of Central Florida majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

g. Cadet James Webb, Crestview High School (USA JROTC program). Cadet Webb plans to attend either the University of West Florida or Florida State University majoring in Computer Engineering.

Community Outreach By Dave Parisot

Memorial Day Remembrances; Eglin Gate-to-Gate Run/Walk May 27; 2019 MOAA Medal Winners

From January 2018 through January 2019 our NWFMOA Chapter has said "good-bye" to twelve of our members and spouses, as listed here: Mrs. **Kristine Sams** (1/13/2018); LCDR **Eileen Summitt**, USN (3/2/2018); Mrs. **Sue Young** (3/18/2018); Lt. Col. **Weymer E. Liljedahl**, USAF (3/30/2018); Lt. Col. **Byron P. "Slip" Spears**, USAF (4/8/2018); Lt. **Col. Don H. Hall**, USAF (5/2/2018); Maj. **Travis Rogers**, USAF (7/10/2018); Lt. **Rebecca Shelden Ashmore**, USAF (10/4/2018); Mrs. **Betty J. Danford** (11/20/2018); Mrs. **Marium Van Damme** (11/26/2018); Mrs. **Anne Singleton** (12/5/2018); and, Lt. Col. **Robert C. Berry**, USAF (1/27 2019). Please remember them and their families on Memorial Day (May 27th) as you attend one of the many Memorial Day services in our local community.

The 34th annual Eglin Gate-to-Gate Run/Walk will be held on Monday, May 27th. To register for this 4.4 mile run/walk, please go to <u>https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/</u> <u>EglinAfb/GatetoGateMemorialRun</u>. Early registration is \$25 (plus \$2.50 sign-up fee) and must be completed online not later than May 11th. After that the fee is \$30 (plus \$2.50 fee). Early registration is encouraged as the number of participants is limited to the first 2000 entries. The registration fee includes an event T-shirt. Participants must arrive on Eglin AFB at Eglin Parkway and Chinquapin Drive not later than 0630 on 27 May. The race/walk starts at 0700.

The MOAA Medal was created by the Military Officers Association of America to recognize leadership and academic achievements of ROTC and JROTC cadets. It is presented annually to specially selected individuals who are participating in ROTC or JROTC programs throughout the country and who exhibit a high potential for military leadership. The seven uniformed services from which MOAA draws its membership are listed on the medal and the ribbon colors are the colors of our nation's flag, which our armed forces have rallied around during war and

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. peace. Cadets selected for the MOAA Medal are in their junior year of ROTC or JROTC. The winning cadets are selected by each school's JROTC Instructors. The 2019 MOAA Medal winners from our seven local high school JROTC programs are: Cadet Captain Darian Stevens (Choctawhatchee H.S.); Cadet 1st Sgt Morgan Shumway (Baker H.S.); Cadet Sean Mikus (Niceville H.S.); Cadet LTJG Skylar The' (Navarre H.S.); Cadet Preston Pennington (Walton H.S.); Cadet SMSgt Sarah Flores (Fort Walton Beach (H.S.); and Cadet 1Lt Arlennyz Difo (Crestview H.S.). Our congratulations and best wishes for success in the future to each of these cadets.

President's Pen (cont.)

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Finally, I'd like to add my scam alert tip on how you can avoid being ripped off. Quick and easy; on each account you have (Checking, savings, brokerage, credit cards, debit cards) look at your records and transactions. Look for any transaction you did not initiate or make. If you find anything call or email the company immediately. Be vigilant and be aware of all your accounts.

In summary, I keep using the words Five Star, and momentum. We have a great chapter, let's keep it going. Participate, contribute, attend.



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Holy Scripture provides the meaningful words that speak encouragement into the hearts and minds of mothers and military families. Experience teaches me that human words often wane in comparison to God's words. My father fought as an infantryman with Gen. Patton in Europe while my mother worked in the Boston factory. They set my faith and service standard as did millions of other parents for their children.

We agree that it's highly noble that America earmarks holidays to celebrate sacrificial purposes. We must never forget we would not be free, happy and at peace if it were not for unselfish fathers and mothers. We could not have served unless they served first. So this May let us place a flag at our fathers grave and flowers at our mothers, and if you brought extra-place it on an empty marker.

Scholarship Awards (cont.)

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All of our scholarship awardees are required to enroll in their college's ROTC program.

Donations are the lifeline of our Scholarship Program. 2019 is the second year for two new endowed scholarships to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

The first endowed scholarship is the "Lt. Col. James 'Jim' Heavener Memorial Scholarship". Jim Heavener was a longtime member of NWFMOA who passed away at the age of 85 on 28 September 2016. Some years prior to his death, Jim established an investment account with USAA Investment Management Company which passed on to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund at the time of his death. In January 2018, the Scholarship Board established this memorial scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 annually.

The second endowed scholarship is the "Chong Cha 'Kim' Parisot Memorial Scholarship" in the amount of \$2,000 annually. Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot passed away on 28 March 2016 at the age of 74. She was the spouse of David A. Parisot, Major, USAF (Ret.) for 34 years. Chong was born in the Republic of Korea in December, 1941 in a rural community and was raised without the benefit of any formal education (In that era, most young girls were not sent to school). However, she still managed to speak two languages (Korean and English), and recognized the value of education by paying tuition for her five nieces and nephews beyond the sixth grade in the Korean school system. Major Parisot wishes to honor Chong's efforts in educating her family members by establishing this scholarship to a JROTC cadet of Okaloosa County.

For 2019, we have two additional scholarships which are named for specific individuals. First is the "Lt. Col. R. Wayne Adelsperger Memorial Scholarship" which has been funded by a donation from his surviving spouse, Mrs. Ann Adelsperger. Wayne passed in September 2012. He served on active duty with distinction with the USAF as a civil engineering officer for 28 years, retiring on 31 March 1986. At the time of his death he was a member of NWFMOA and an active supporter of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

The second new named scholarship for 2019 is "The Major William 'Bill' Ryan Honorary Scholarship". This scholarship has been funded by donations to the Scholarship Fund by the Ryan family over the past few years. Bill was a member of the Scholarship Fund Board of Directors and served as its Treasurer. We are pleased to have his family

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President's Budget Confirms Plans for Drastic Reduction in Military Medical Positions (Revised from MOAA Webpage)

By: CAPT Kathryn M. Beasley, USN (Ret)

Sometimes, you have to play detective.

MOAA has done this with the Defense Health Program (DHP) portion of the FY 2020 budget and found some disturbing data.

But first the good news, which was anticipated: There will be *no new changes to the existing TRICARE fee structure*. There was no indication of any desire to lower the already steep fee increases of the previous year; any fee increases seem to be off the table, for now. Additionally, the proposed budget seems to provide adequate funds for health care requirements, the new electronic health record, medical research efforts, and health care requirements for contingency operations.

However, the disturbing piece of the news is confirmation of a significant reduction in uniformed medical personnel. While we now know the exact numbers and can begin to broadly anticipate their impact, we still do not know (and the services are still in the process of analyzing) which medical specialties, nursing specialties, medic ratings, and other positions these will affect, or where these billets will go in support of military readiness.

With a total personnel reduction of almost 22 percent from current levels, or 17,991 positions, we anticipate both the system itself and beneficiaries will experience the effects of it. These reductions are expected to happen starting Oct. 1, 2019.

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Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

This month's article is abbreviated as the feature article is about our Scholarship Program. I encourage all of you to attend the Scholarship Luncheon on 2 May 2019 at the Fort Walton Yacht Club to meet and congratulate the seven JROTC cadets who will be awarded \$16,000 in college scholarships.

Ticket sales for the 50/50 raffle at the April luncheon totaled \$184. The winning ticket was held by **Margaret Espy** who was a luncheon guest. Margaret donated her winnings of \$92 back to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Margaret, and to all of you who purchased raffle tickets.

Since my last article, **Bob Gramm** has renewed his Century Club membership and we welcome new member **Jake Bush**.

Here is the complete list of **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation since 2015) and **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2018 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets.

Gold Century Club: Bill Ryan (Feb 2016); Ruth Cullen (Oct 2016); Dave Parisot (Feb 2017); Janet Taylor (Mar 2017); Chris Beam (Mar 2017); Bob Garcia (July 2017); Rod Gerdes (Nov 2017); Larry Bush (Nov 2017); Dr. Howard Fisher (Nov 2017); Eileen Arpke (Feb 2018); Fred Westfall (Apr 2018); Clyde Locke (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran Sam Lombardo (July 2018); Dennis Phillips (Aug 2018); Karl Eschmann (Oct 2018); Carol Baker (Jan 2019); and Ann Adelsperger (Feb 2019).



BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months): May 2018: Dann Matizza (Renewal); Dennis Phillips (Renewal); Larry Bush (Renewal); June 2018: Rod Gerdes (Renewal). July 2018: Larry Tashlik; Scott Berry (Renewal); WWII Vet Sam Lombardo (Renewal) (In memory of Jean Lombardo); Don Litke (Renewal) (In memory of Kay Litke); Joy Houck (In memory of Major Stanley Houck); August 2018: Doris Day; Ruth Cullen (Renewal)(In memory of Bill Cullen); Dennis Phillips (Renewal). September, 2018: Christine Hallion; Joe Stevens; WWII Vet Bill Colgan (Renewal); George Colton; October 2018: Bob Garcia (Renewal); Karl Eschmann (Renewal) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Kay Litke); Chris Beam (Renewal); Douglas Hardin (Renewal) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2018: Pete Peterzen (Renewal); Dr. Howard Fisher (Renewal); Bob Secrest; December 2018: Kathleen Bush; Jean Dutton (Renewal); Larry Bush (Renewal); and Dave Parisot (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot); Kay Dent (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); January 2019: Dick Prater (Renewal); Clyde Locke (Renewal); Charlie Brown (Renewal); and Dennis Phillips (Renewal); Wayne (Dave) Davis (In honor of Doris Day); Janet Taylor (Renewal) (In honor of Maj Bill Ryan); Carol Baker (Renewal) (In memory of Col. David Baker). February 2019: Dr. Roger Riggenbach (Renewal) (In memory of Ashlyn Rhodes); Ann Adelsperger (In memory of Lt Col R. Wayne Adelsperger); Fred Boyer (Renewal); Eileen Arpke (Renewal); Dann Mattiza (Renewal); March 2019: Nick Marotta (Renewal); Les Matheson (Renewal); Rod Gerdes (Renewal); Al Bills (Renewal); **Bob Gramm** (Renewal) and **Ken Zepp**; April 2019: Jake Bush.

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

2017/2018 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): January 2018: Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates) (Renewal); December 2018: Eglin Federal Credit Union (Renewal)

2017/2018 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2018: (Renewal); Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind, Renewal); December 2018: Rocky Bayou Golf Course (In-kind, Renewal).

2017/2018 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): February 2018: David Beaulieu, Agent for New York Life Insurance; November 2018: Gator Lakes Golf Course (In-kind, Renewal); Mary's Kitchen (FWB & Destin) (In-kind, Renewal); Buffalo's Reef Restaurant (FWB) (In-kind, Renewal);

Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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Shalimar Cheers Pub (In-kind, Renewal); Shalimar
Pointe Golf Course (In-kind, Renewal); December 2018:
Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen (FWB) (In-kind, Renewal);
Tammy's Journeys (FWB) (In-kind, Renewal); Painting
With A Twist (FWB) (In-kind, Renewal); Destin Party
Boat Fishing (In-kind, Renewal); Slick Mick's Deli &
Grille (FWB); Connect with Flowers (Shalimar) (In-kind, Renewal); Destin Party Boat Fishing (In-kind, Renewal).

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

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

Scholarship Awards (cont.)

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members, daughter Janet Taylor and granddaughter Nikki Taylor of Texas, daughter Beth Ryan of Minnesota, and son and daughter-in-law Thomas and Debra Ryan of Virginia, attending our luncheon. Bill and Janet are charter members of the Scholarship Fund's Gold Century Club.

At the May 2nd luncheon, we will also be recognizing the members of our Gold Century Club. This membership requires a minimum of \$500 in cumulative donations to the Scholarship Fund since 2015. To date, we have 17 people achieving this distinction. Please see Scholarship Fund article in this issue for the list of current members.

Let's have a great turnout to congratulate our JROTC scholarship winners for 2019.

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.

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 decuctible to the extent allowed by law.

This gift is a memorial in honor of:
 Please inform the following of this gift:
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Address

City, ST ZIP

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

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President's Budget Confirms (cont.)

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MOAA has pressed for answers. As a result, Defense Health Agency officials have stressed that these reductions will not happen all at once, but will occur through "natural attrition." Officials also stated they have been given extra monies for civilian medical professional hiring and increase use of the TRICARE networks to support beneficiary access to care - contract care we know is much more costly than using military treatment facilities (MTFs).

In addition to closely monitoring leading access to care indicators, MOAA intends to determine which medical services will be cut or reduced and where those reductions will occur. These may take the form of reduced primary and specialty care, or of reduced lab, radiology or pharmacy services at MTFs - resulting in more out-of-pocket costs for TRICARE beneficiaries. Also, any reduction in MTF services will need to be understood and evaluated by beneficiaries prior to the new TRICARE annual enrollment season.

The bottom line: The order of magnitude these cuts represent certainly will be felt by the military medical community itself and a large percentage of beneficiaries. N.W. Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. P. O. Box 1213 Shalimar, FL 32579



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Ś	sincere invitation to join us in our social, cultural, professional and service activities that extend from the local to national levels				New Members joining this ye receive membership through December 31 next year for \$25.0				
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n/Renewal

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Age	Dues	Age	Dues
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96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335 00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00
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