



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 22 No. 11 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services NOVEMBER 2016

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 3 November 2016  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
 Program to follow  
**Place:** Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club  
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** Col Matthew Higer  
 Vice Commander, 96th Test Wing

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](http://www.nwfmoa.org) and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at [nwreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwreservations@gmail.com), or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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## What's Happening at Eglin?

By Scott Berry

Hopefully, we'll get a current update from this month's speaker, Colonel Matthew W. Higer, who is the Vice Commander of the 96th Test Wing. It's been several years since we've heard from someone in the Air Base Wing so I'm sure much as changed. One of the big changes is that the Air Base Wing went away and was combined with the 46th Test Wing (my alma mater) to create the 96th Test Wing. It's a much larger organization with an equally larger scope and mission as listed below.

As the vice commander, Col Higer leads more than 9,800 military, civilian and contractor personnel, in accomplishing the 96th Test Wing's missions of developmental testing and evaluation of conventional munitions, command and control systems, aircraft avionics and guidance systems, and radar cross section measurement. The 96th Test Wing has eight groups and 32 squadrons, operates 38 uniquely modified test aircraft, and manages 120,000 square miles of over-water test ranges plus facilities in six states. He also directs all

base operating support, infrastructure, and services support for the Department of Defense's largest installation at 724 square miles. The 96th Test Wing hosts seven tenant wings and wing equivalent units--to include the 33d Fighter Wing (F-35 Joint Strike Fighter), U.S. Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Center--and 37 other associate units including the U.S. Army 6th Ranger Training Battalion and the 20th Space Control Squadron. As vice commander, he interacts with local officials across a three-county, 11-city region with an annual military economic impact of \$2.5 billion.



Col Matthew Higer

Colonel Higer earned his commission in 1993 from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Southern California. He is a distinguished graduate of the United States Army War College, the United States Naval Postgraduate School, the United States Air Force Squadron Officer School, and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

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Get your tickets, have a Ball!

# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Help! Trying hard to survive the media barrage (including Facebook) of the "he said, she said" un-facts, hyperbole, and blather sprinkled with several very small grains of truth of this national election period. I feel like I'm in the No Man's Land between opposing artillery fire—the sound is deafening and unpredictable and occasionally a dud round lands near my foxhole. Boy will I be glad when this is over. But of course my venting is completely out of line if I fail to participate in the election process by voting. **SO SHOULD YOU!** For those of you who are still undecided I'd offer what a heard from a three star general: No decision IS A DECISION.



Scott Berry

I encourage everyone to sign up for the upcoming Biophilia Center tour in December. The details are elsewhere in this issue along with my mea culpa. Never been there in the almost two decades we've lived here so looking forward to it. And while it may be a bit chilly it'll be much better than the sweltering heat and 110% humidity of mid-July.

When you read this I'll probably be in Washington, DC at the annual MOAA convention. This will be my first as I got sidelined last year with a broken ankle. I'm looking forward to accepting a five star streamer for our Chapter Level of Excellence Award on behalf of all of you. We are also spending several days with family and seeing some of the sights. I'm an outlier in that I never had a Pentagon assignment so only been there 2-3 times for very short periods. Janet has never been there. Should be a fun time in addition to the camaraderie of the convention. And I learned the hard way that if you want to visit the White House or the Capital it needs to be worked through your congressman with preferably six months lead time for the

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## PUBLIC RECORD

Memoriam

Jim Heavener, LtCol, USAF, RET  
Died September 28, 2016

## HAVE A BALL

**Ticket Order Form for the  
NWFMOA Annual Military Ball  
to benefit the Scholarship Fund**

**WHEN:** 6 December 2016

**WHERE:** Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club

**DRESS:** Mess Dress, Gown or cocktail dress, formal or business suit.

**SOCIAL HOUR:** 1800; Pay-as-you-go bars will be open.

**DINNER:** 1900; **DANCING:** 2000 until 2200 with "Retroactive."

Dinner will include:

**First Course:** House Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette

**Choice of Entrée:**

(1) 8 oz Beef Filet

(2) Chicken Marsala

**Sides:** Loaded Mash Potatoes and Broccoli with Cheese Sauce

**Dessert:** French Silk Pie

Dinners served with rolls, butter, iced tea, and coffee

**Ticket Purchaser's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ times **\$45.00** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ with check enclosed.

(Price includes Meal & Gratuity)

**Spouse/Guest's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE OF ENTRÉE** \_\_\_\_\_

When paying with cash, please provide full mailing address.

When ordering by mail include a **stamped self-addressed envelope**, a check payable to NWFMOA, and this form to:

**NWFMOA, PO Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579.**

Allow sufficient time to get your tickets returned by mail.

Ticket Order Form must be **RECEIVED** by **November 25, 2016**.

Table reservations may be made for groups of eight by contacting

**Scott Berry at (850) 582-0839 or email: [swberry@cox.net](mailto:swberry@cox.net).**

List names of people at your table. If you are to be seated at someone's reserved table please coordinate with the reservation holder.

+++++

You are encouraged to make a charitable contribution to the Scholarship Fund by supplying an additional check made payable to: NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

*All proceeds from raffle ticket sales go to providing scholarships for JROTC cadets.*

**Raffle tickets & Silent Auction are CASH or CHECKS only, please.**

## Oops!

By Scott Berry

In my column last month, I inadvertently misspelled Errol Hoberman's name. No, he's not a doberman. My apologies to Errol.

# NWFMOA Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

**Veterans Day is Friday, November 11th.** There will be a lot of local veterans activities happening in the first couple weeks of November.

The day after the November 3rd Chapter luncheon, the annual **Veterans Standdown** for Okaloosa County homeless and disadvantaged military veterans will be held on Friday, **November 4<sup>th</sup>** at Striving for Perfections Ministry, 24 Bass Ave., FWB. The event starts at 8:30AM and concludes by 1:30PM. The sponsoring organizations can always use donations of money, serviceable used bicycles, toiletries, and used paperback books as well as volunteers the day of the event. This year our Chapter is assisting with a contribution of \$250. This event was started about eight years ago by Chapter member Judge T. Patt Maney, B/Gen, USA, Retired.

On Saturday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>**, the USAF Armament Museum will host the 50th Vietnam War Commemoration from 10:00AM – 3:00PM. This event is free and open to the public. Please attend to honor our veterans of all services who participated in the Vietnam War. Vietnam Veterans are asked to check in to receive their free packet of appreciation.

As in past years, many of our local communities will hold **veterans services** on Friday, **November 11<sup>th</sup>** for our living and deceased veterans. The services in Fort Walton Beach will be at the Beal Cemetery at 11:00AM. In Crestview, Veterans Day services will be held at the Veterans Memorial at the courthouse at approx. 10:00AM immediately following their parade (parade starts at 9:00AM). Valparaiso will hold services at the Doolittle Park at 11:00AM. There will also be a local service, which I regularly attend, in the Poquito Bayou neighborhood of Shalimar at the Leo Norred Park flagpole at 4PM. I encourage all to attend at least one of these events and to wear your NWFMOA nametag.

A couple of our local cities also have **patriotic parades** on Veterans Day. Crestview's parade starts at 9AM and runs down Main Street in the downtown area. Mary Esther's parade starts at 1PM and runs on the streets around the Santa Rosa Mall (Page Bacon, Mary Esther Cutoff, and Hollywood Blvd). NWFMOA will have an entry in both parades (as we have the past two years) to honor our veterans both living and deceased. If you would like to participate (ride or walk), please call Dave Parisot at 613-6545.

# Surviving Spouse Corner

Aging in Place

By Patricia Bergquist,  
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member

Statistics show 1 in 3 Americans now is over age 50, and by 2030, 1 in every 5 will be over 65. Nearly 90 percent of those over 45 want to age at home, referred to as aging in place. Often, home modifications to improve accessibility and livability help to ensure a safe, independent, and actively engaged lifestyle.

It is important to think proactively about the aging process rather than react once an event occurs. Consider whether your home will work for you as you age. Ask yourself: What is your goal for your house? How long do you want to live there?

Often this is a head, heart, and financial decision. Life is a journey of adaptation, and our homes tell us what we need to do. The best living environment is safe, comfortable, fosters and preserves independence, accommodates the potential need for assistance, supports the way you live, and will continue to be affordable down the road.

Experts say the three most dangerous areas in a home are the kitchen, bathroom (the No. 1 place for accidents in the home), and stairs. While individual needs vary, some home modifications to consider include installing:

- ramps at home entrances to eliminate steps;
- handrails at existing steps and porches;
- remote-controlled blinds/shades;
- lever-style door handles;
- adequate indoor and outdoor lighting;
- lever-style handles on all faucets, including a pullout sprayer in the kitchen;
- a front-control cooktop;
- side-by-side refrigerator (with slide-out shelves and a water/ice dispenser);
- larger, user-friendly cabinet and drawer pulls;
- pullout shelves in cabinets;
- a raised dishwasher;
- a front-loading washer and dryer;
- a curbless shower (no step over and wheelchair-friendly, if necessary later) with grab bars, a slide-bar-type handheld shower nozzle, tub and shower controls close to the entry point, anti-scald devices, and entry doors at least 32-inches wide; and
- raised toilets.

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## VOTE on November 8th (Or before)

No vote = no complaining

### Election Day Voting - provided by the Florida Division of Elections

The polls are open on Election Day, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Any voters waiting in line at 7:00 p.m. will have the opportunity to cast a ballot.

If you do not know where your polling place is, contact your county Supervisor of Elections. You can also find your precinct and polling place on your county Supervisor of Elections' website or by using the Check Your Voter Status webpage.

Whether during early voting or on Election Day, you will be asked to provide at the polls a valid photo ID with signature. Any one of the following photo IDs will be accepted:

- Florida driver's license
- Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- United States passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military identification
- Student identification
- Retirement center identification
- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification
- Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s. 790.06
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality.

If your photo ID does not include your signature, you will be asked to provide another ID that has your signature.

If you do not bring proper ID, you can still vote a provisional ballot. As long as you are eligible and voted in the proper precinct, your provisional ballot will count provided the signature on your provisional ballot matches the signature in your registration record.

## What's up with the Florida Council of Chapters?

View the council newsletter at [www.moaafl.org/communicate](http://www.moaafl.org/communicate)

## U. S Marine Corps -- Birthday

November 10, 1775

Birthday Message from Commandant of the Marine Corps

When the Continental Congress raised up two battalions of Marines in 1775, it launched the greatest fighting force the world has ever known - a force revered globally for its uncommon valor, unparalleled adaptability, and ferocious tenacity. Over the past 240 years, the battlefields and equipment have changed, but the spirit of the United States Marines Corps has prevailed in every clime and place.

One hundred years ago, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island opened its doors as the first base dedicated solely to making Marines. Since then, hundreds of thousands of men and women have been forged into elite warriors at Parris Island, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, and The Basic School in Quantico. Each recruit had a different reason for stepping onto the yellow footprints, but all are unified by the intangible traits that characterize United States Marines and the remarkable legacy that has carried on across generations.



Whether you served on the hallowed grounds of Belleau Wood, fought on the iconic island battlefields of World War II, navigated the harsh terrain and climate of the Chosin Reservoir or Vietnam, conducted assaults during Desert Storm, marched on Baghdad, fought in close combat in Fallujah, or conducted combat operations in Afghanistan, everyone who wears the Eagle, Globe and Anchor is a member of that storied legacy.

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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.

## U. S Marine Corps (cont.)

Continued from page 4

As we celebrate the 240th birthday of our Corps, we pay tribute to all who have served and we remember our fallen heroes. We take great pride in our legacy and in the fine men and women who carry our colors into the future. And we extend heartfelt thanks to our families for their steadfast support.

Our 26th Commandant, General Louis Wilson, once said, "In the last analysis, what the Marine Corps becomes is what we make of it during our respective watches. And that watch of each Marine is not confined to the time he spends on active duty. It lasts as long as he is 'proud to bear the title of United States Marine.'" Thank you all for guarding the legacy of our Corps during your watch.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

Robert B. Neller  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

## President's Message (cont.)

Continued from page 2

White House tour. There is an application form that is slightly less complex than for getting a TS clearance.

Unless something drastic happens, it appears you'll have me to kick around as your chapter president for one more year. I offer my name very reluctantly as I believe in new blood. This will also be the first time in chapter history that a president has served for three consecutive terms. Not something I planned. Hopefully next year will generate some enthusiasm for the position.

Berry "OUT"

### **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.

By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

### VETERAN'S DAY

Tattered uniforms washed with borax and sunrays  
Still house the bulging proud chests of older youth  
Who uncompromisingly gave away their modeled freedom  
For un-apathetic ideals buried deep within the gabardine

Many found unknown treasures beneath their teenage joints  
Some gave all and the deep rest welcomed them sweetly  
With calloused arms that slowly softly laid them to honor  
Many tears made a stream to heaven's well and soul Lover

From a mystic distance He too opened His compassionate arms  
As a divided earth tautly offered up her commended spirits  
There are virgin rooms in His pure inn for principled patriots  
They prepaid in advance with pierced pounds of flesh and blood

"Home, home; welcome to your true home" my master said.  
"Don't rob my heart of untested epiphanies," my Lover cried  
The silence of war has spoken loudly through rising spirits  
Taps throws her nocturnal blanket over the faithful servants

Those beneath our soles know only peace and freedom  
Never alone in birth, battle, bruises and brokenness  
A family of integrities woven together in un-brokenness  
Far above the man made divisions of cloaked legalities  
Cold humanity sitting on the cuff of a slow moving rotator



## Scholarship Fund: We Need Your Help for the Scholarship Fund-Raiser!!

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

Our biggest annual fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund will soon be upon us. I'm talking about our annual Military Ball to be held on Tuesday evening, December 6th at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. This is the same great location as the past two years where we experienced most excellent food and service. Some of the details are still being worked out, but we will be having various raffles of donated items along with special raffles of a "Barrel of Booze" and a "Wagon of Wine". That is, IF we can get donations of wine and spittits! I'm asking our NWFMOA Chapter members to help out with these raffles by donating a bottle of booze or a bottle of wine (or one of each!) and bringing them to our November luncheon meeting. Purchasing these items by the Scholarship Fund defeats the purpose of the fund-raiser.

Another way to help the Scholarship Fund is to get a gift certificate from your favorite restaurant or other merchant to be a part of the merchandise raffles at the Ball. We can also use golf rounds and lodging gift certificates as well as new merchandise. All donations are tax deductible and I will provide receipts to the businesses and individuals who make any type of donation. I have prepared a donation request letter to assist anyone with donation requests which I can provide to you if you will contact me at [dparisot@cox.net](mailto:dparisot@cox.net) or by phone at (850) 613-6545. All donations need to be received by November 30th. So far this year we have received about \$4,300 in donations to the Scholarship Fund from Century Club, memorials, and 50/50 raffles. Since we award \$9,000 total in scholarships to our local JROTC high school senior cadets, we still need \$4,700 to break even for the year. **Remember, many hands make for light work.** (Note: Funds for the Military Ball ticket sales are used to pay for the meals, entertainment, and other Ball expenses; none goes to the Scholarship Fund.)

The 50/50 raffle at the Octoberber luncheon was won by Skip Harrington who donated back \$36 for a total of \$108 going to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Skip, and to all who bought raffle tickets.

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## It's Biophilia Time!

By Scott Berry

Remember when I promised to research the possibility of a tour of the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center near Freeport after the well received presentation by its director, Paul Arthur and the bird? Hopefully YES. Remember when I said I'd dropped the ball in arranging a tour before their schedule got filled up? Hopefully NO.

So.....We now have a tour scheduled for December 10th (Saturday) at 0900-1130. The center is located at 4956 State Hwy 20 East Freeport, FL 32439.

Please call or email if you plan to attend.



## Surviving Spouse (cont.)

Continued from page 3

Modifications can be made in all areas of your home, even in closets and garages. (Find more ideas in the AARP Home Fit Guide by visiting the AARP website and entering "Home Fit Guide" in the search field.)

As you begin to examine your home and its condition, ongoing maintenance needs, and necessary changes, consider a variety of solutions and make informed decisions. Unbiased assessments by a certified aging-in-place specialist (CAP) can be helpful (\$300 average cost for home assessment).

Some CAPs are remodelers, but a growing number are health care professionals, designers, architects, or contractors who are trained to identify the unique needs of the older adult population, aging-in-place home modifications, common remodeling projects, and solutions to common barriers. CAPs provide a service, but eventually you'll need a professional remodeler to modify your home. Visit [www.nahb.org/caps](http://www.nahb.org/caps) to find a CAP in your area.

## Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 6

Here's the complete list of Century Club members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2015/2016 along with our Business Donors:

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club:** October 2015: **Frederick Rall.** November 2015: **Dick Prater.** December 2015: **Carol Baker; Karl Eschmann.** January 2016: **Clyde Locke (Renewal); Dan Brown (Renewal).** February 2016: **Mel Bryant (Renewal); Charlie Brown; John Holt; Bill Ryan.** March 2016: **Fred Westfall (Renewal); William Colgan; Dave Parisot (Renewal).** 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).**

**2015 Business Platinum Donor** (\$750 minimum donation): April/November 2015: **Eglin Federal Credit Union**

**2015 Business Silver Donor** (\$250 - \$499): May/December 2015: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind);** December 2015: **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind).**

**2015 Business Bronze Donor** (\$100 - \$249): November 2015: **Merrill Lynch Wealth Management;** May/December 2015: **Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café (In-kind);** December 2015: **Tammy's Journeys (In-kind);** **Mary's Kitchen (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."**

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## What's Happening (cont.)

Continued from the front page

He holds Level 3 Acquisition Professional Development Program certification in Program Management and Test and Evaluation. He commanded twice at the squadron level.

Colonel Higer is a Command Pilot with more than 2,900 military flight hours in 27 aircraft types as an experimental test pilot, instructor pilot, and evaluator pilot. His military flight experience includes combat missions over southern Iraq as part of Operation Southern Watch.

Ensure you make a reservation to get the latest on Eglin news. Look forward to seeing many of you there!

### 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](http://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

