



# THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association  
[www.nwfmoa.org](http://www.nwfmoa.org)

Vol. 24 No. 10 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services OCTOBER 2018

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 4 October 2018  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
 Program to follow  
**Place:** Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club  
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** Mr. Michael Beedie,  
 Fort Walton Beach City Manager

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 [nwfreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfreservations@gmail.com), or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

## Officers & Directors

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## What's Going On in Fort Walton Beach?

By Scott Berry

The answer is "plenty." It's been over a year since FWB Mayor Dick Rynearson spoke to us. He gave a concise and informative presentation. This month our speaker is Michael Beedie. In military terms we'd call him the vice or deputy commander. But in the civilian world it's different. Never heard of a "deputy mayor" or a "vice mayor." I've heard of a "vice squad" but I think that's something a little different.

So in civilian parlance the #2 position is called the City Manager, and Michael Beedie is the City Manager of Fort Walton Beach. We won't hear a repeat of Mayor Rynearson's remarks because the #2 person always has a different focus even though the overall goal is the same.

On a person note, Mike is a native of Northwest Florida as he was born at Eglin AFB. He grew up in Fort Walton Beach and graduated from Fort Walton Beach High School in 1994. He's been a city employee since 2005. Since starting with the city, he's progressed through the ranks as the Utilities Operations Manager, City Engineer, and Engineering & Utility Services Director before being appointed as the City Manager in September 2012.

As City Manager, Mr. Beedie is responsible for overseeing a \$41 million annual budget and over 300 employees in seven departments: Human Resources,



Mr. Michael Beedie

Public Works, Utility Services, Financial Services, Fire Services, Police Services, and Recreation & Cultural Services.

He graduated from the University of South Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1998 and a Master of Business Administration in 2003. He also received a Graduate Certificate from The Florida State University in Florida City and County Management in 2009. He holds a Professional Engineer's license in Florida and Alabama with almost 20 years of engineering and management experience in both the public and private sectors. So he brings to the City Manager office a wealth of knowledge from an academic perspective as well as practical hands-on experience.

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# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Two quick short bursts: #1. Officers Call, under the guise of an Oktoberfest celebration, is on the books. Read elsewhere in this issue for details. #2. The election of 2019 chapter officers is drawing near. Please contact me if you'd like to serve or know of someone who would. We need volunteers as the chapter doesn't run on good intentions and Monopoly money.



Scott Berry

The summer has sneaked past me. I think the primary reason is Janet and I, in our retired lives, have started collecting "frequent traveler miles" in large quantities. It started with Gatlinburg (highly recommend) and before the year's done we will have made stops in Orlando, Gainesville, Houston, Los Angeles, Lompoc (that's in California, you know), and Phoenix...and those are just the ones on the books. Although we have both been retired for a couple of years, it's occurred to me that we are finally starting to stop, err, travel and smell the roses. The only downside, it has intensified the warfare with our HOA and keeping our landscape compliant with their obsessive standards. Ask me if you'd like details.

I appreciate members' help in identifying potential speakers. It's a very personal appreciation as I've been wearing two hats as president and first vice president in charge of programs. That really is more than one person can do comfortably, but some of you have helped lessen the burden. Next year, we'll be hearing a presentation of pirates—REAL pirates—that prowled the local waters. Johnny Depp won't make an appearance but I'm sure the presentation will be fascinating without him. I/We can always use more ideas so share them if you've got them.

Finally, although I stated this at the last luncheon, I'd be remiss if I didn't highlight for the entire chapter that one

of our members, Gayle Norgaard, was selected for the Women's Hall of Fame 2018 by the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women. As part of this prestigious recognition, she received the Carolyn Spencer Humanitarian Award. Her accomplishments, which are WAY too long for this column, clearly validate her selection. The Hall of Fame started in 1995 and only several women are identified every year so this is a truly outstanding and singular achievement. Congrats, Gayle, for recognition well deserved—and well overdue!

Berry "OUT"

## OktoberCall!!

This is our chapter's interpretation of Oktoberfest. It's an Officers Call at Cheers! in Shalimar, 1270 Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar (duh!) on Thursday, October 18th, with the beer spigot beginning to pour at 1730 hrs and ending at ????? It's rumored that there will be raffles. Join us for fun and camaraderie and wear your Oktoberfest finest!



## PUBLIC RECORD

New Member

Larry Szczur, Col, USAF (Ret)

## 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.

# “Community Outreach”

By Dave Parisot



**Hall of Fame Inductee:** Long time NWFMOA member and former board member **Gayle Norgaard**, Lt Col, USAF, Ret., was honored on August 27, 2018, with induction to the Hall of Fame of the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women (OCCSW). Norgaard, a breast cancer survivor, helped bring the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life fundraiser to Okaloosa County in 1993. She also was instrumental with forming Relay for Life programs at Crestview, Defuniak Springs, Freeport, Fort Walton Beach, and Niceville. The Vietnam veteran also served as a military nurse for 28 years. Gayle was inducted to the Hall of Fame as this year’s “Humanitarian” inductee. She is a very active community volunteer.

“These inspiring women are all assets to our community,” said Gail Waller, chair of the OCCSW. “Each of these role models has made tremendous contributions to improve the lives of citizens, particularly women and children, living in our county and should be recognized for the impact they have had on our community.”

Since 1995, 110 women have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. The award was created to honor women of Okaloosa County whose contributions to the arts, athletics, business, education, government, humanities, philanthropy and science have been of great value to the community’s development.

Many of you may recall Gayle’s columns in the **Defender** “Personal affairs” and “Membership”. A hearty congratulations to Gayle from NWFMOA!



**Gayle Norgaard, Lt. Col., USAF, Ret., was inducted into the OCCSW “Hall of Fame” on August, 28, 2018 in the Humanitarian category.**

By Chaplain Tom Azar

As families move through the Fall season of harvesting we see trucks and tractors bringing in the fruits of their labor. We drive through the Adirondack Mountains and find roadside stands full of fresh veggies and honey. However, when we get to town the big chain store’s aisles are full of commercial products vaguely related to the season thus overtaking the original intent of these days and mostly for the sake of profits.

What happened to Grandparents, Patriots and Veterans Days? The ways of the world marginalized our ‘values’ compass?

Business psychologists and advertisers speak to our materialistic side. We accumulate more ‘stuff’ as evident in the rapid growth of the storage rental industry that costs consumers more than 2.5 billion dollars per year!

Did your parents own storage sheds? What draws individuals to the external while avoiding the internal spiritual dimensions? Why is God a foreign topic? Has the media and technology led us down a slippery slope? Will our children’s children come ultimately to a dead end? I greatly appreciate my parents leading us in daily meal and evening prayers and worshipping together (we’d get a whooping if we had a toy or gadget with us).

The Psalmist says it best: “Oh the joy of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do” Psalm 1.

God is our Creator and Redeemer therefore our ultimate authority. The once potent flame of an individual’s home and school education is waning as our light house. People are in the dark without moral values, spiritual purpose and eternal direction.

What are the ‘Fall fruits’ of your lifetime of labor, and will it honor God, family and nation? Or will it be found in dilapidated boxes in a wayside storage shed?

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# Legislative Affairs

By Dave Parisot

**2019 COLA:** It's getting to be the time of year when we will learn what the cost of living adjustment (COLA) will be for our military retirement pay and social security payments. Here is MOAA's outlook from their website: **MOAA: "Our prediction for the final 2019 COLA is 2.8 percent. Consumer Price Index (CPI) growth has slowed in the past couple of months, but has still shown the highest year-over-year growth in years. The largest contributing factors to this year's growth have been energy commodities, shelter (housing), and transportation services. Food prices, particularly away from homes, had a modest impact on CPI as well."** For more info on this year's COLA, go to [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) under "COLA Watch".

**New Medicare Cards:** A while back, Medicare was required by law to take Social Security Numbers off of Medicare cards. The purpose is to help keep our personal information more secure and help protect our identities. The new Medicare card now has a new number that's unique to you, instead of a Social Security Number. This new number is used only for Medicare coverage. I received my new Medicare card in early September. I won't be surprised if each of my medical providers will now want to make a copy of that card for their files to use in filing claims.

**Arlington National Cemetery (ANC):** We are all aware that the ANC has limited grounds for the interment of eligible veterans. The ANC recently conducted a survey to help determine priorities of veterans and service members in regard to who should be allowed future interment, both below and above ground. The survey results and other information on ANC were posted to the

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## Now and Always We'll be There.



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# What's Going On (cont.)

Continued from the Front page

Mr. Beedie was appointed to the Florida City and County Management Association Board of Directors in 2016 and is the Legislative Chair of the Northwest Florida League of Cities. He has also been named a Home Rule Hero by the Florida League of Cities for five years straight for his advocacy for preserving Home Rule Authority for local governments throughout the State of Florida.

The board of directors has proposed some possible topics for Mike to address that will be of interest to everyone in the local area regardless of their ZIP code. I'm confident that, like Mayor Rynearson, Mike will provide us a good insight into some of the important issues facing Fort Walton Beach and issues having repercussions throughout the local area. So make your reservation and hear what he has to say first hand!

# "Community Outreach" (cont.)

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**NWFMOA Donates to Veterans Stand Down:** At the September 6th monthly luncheon NWFMOA members donated over \$650 in personal items and cash to be provided to homeless veterans at this year's Veterans Stand Down by the Mental Health Association of Okaloosa-Walton. Many thanks to all who donated.



Dave Parisot, NWFMOA Community Outreach, presented Virginia Barr, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Okaloosa-Walton, with over \$650 value of personal items and cash from NWFMOA members for the 2018 Veterans Stand Down

## Naval Fun Facts

1. George Washington paid for the first commissioned ship – the *Hannah* – with his own money. The *Hannah* was commissioned and launched on September 5, 1775, and a month later, the Continental Navy was officially founded.
2. Five Cities actually lay claim to being the birthplace of the United States Navy: Philadelphia, PA; Marblehead, MA; Beverly, MA; Whitehall, NY; and Machias, ME.
3. The U.S. Navy was actually formed twice. The Continental Navy was formed on 13 October 1775 and was disbanded in 1785 after the Revolutionary War. The US went without a navy for 9 years, but under the Naval Act of 1794 the navy was resurrected as the U.S. Navy.

## The Navy Song “Anchors Aweigh”

Stand Navy out to sea, fight our battle cry!  
We'll never change our course so vicious foes steer shy-y-y-y!  
Roll out the TNT, anchors aweigh!  
Sail on to victory, and sink their bones to Davy Jones, hooray!

Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors Aweigh!  
Farewell to Foreign Shores, we sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay;  
Through our last night ashore, drink to the foam,  
Until we meet once more, here's wishing you a happy voyage home!

Blue of the mighty deep, Gold of God's great sun;  
Let these our colors be, Till All of time be done-n-n-ne;  
On seven seas we learn, Navy's stern call:  
Faith, courage, service true, With honor over, honor over all.



## Comedy Corner

(in honor of the Navy's Birthday)

1. What do a Navy Midshipman and a West Point Cadet have in common?
2. How do you tell if there is a fighter pilot at your party?
3. Why couldn't the sailors play cards?

## Legislative Affairs (cont.)

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MOAA website ([www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org)) on Sept. 5, 2018, titled “**Survey: 90 Percent of Vets support Tightening Arlington Burial Eligibility**”. Please go to the website to read the article.

*Answers on page 7*

# Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

It was great to have the Choctawhatchee High School JROTC Honor Guard back at our September luncheon to present and post the colors of our nation. This brief ceremony seems to add just a little bit of 'lagniappe' to our program. Thank you Choctaw Senior Instructor (and NWFMOA member) Major **Scott Bates** and his **JROTC Cadets**.

The Board of Directors of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund met in September to review and update the policies and procedures of the scholarship program, and to establish criteria for the presentation of the MOAA Medal to cadets of each of the seven local JROTC programs we support (Baker, Choctawhatchee, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Navarre, Niceville, and Walton High Schools). The Scholarship Policies and Procedures and Scholarship Application are posted on the NWFMOA website Scholarship Fund pages at [www.NWFMOA.org](http://www.NWFMOA.org).

The 50/50 drawing at the September Chapter luncheon was won by Joe Stevens. Ticket sales were \$167 with \$84 to Joe and \$83 to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who bought tickets.

**Christine Hallion** and **Joe Stevens** are new members of the BG Frank Glunn Century Club. Renewal Century Club donor is WWII Vet **Bill Colgan**. We still need a few more new Century Club members to reach our current goal of 40 for 2018. Are you ready to join?

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 2017/2018 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** (April 2018); **Clyde Locke** (April 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (July 2018); **Dennis Phillips** (August 2018).

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club:** September 2017: **Beryl Brenner** (In memory of George Brenner); October 2017: **Doug Hardin** (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2017: **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Jean Dutton** (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Renewal); **Karl Eschmann** (In memory of Col. Bud Day and Kay Litke) (Renewal); December 2017: **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (Renewal); **Dr. Keith Kulow** (In memory of Lt Col David Kulow); **Pete Peterzen** (Renewal); **Les Matheson**; **Dann Mittiza**; January 2018: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal)(In memory of Mike Flynt); **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); and WWII Vet **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Janet Taylor** (Renewal) (In Honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (Renewal) (In memory of Janice Riggensch). February 2018: **Dick Prater** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Nick Marotta** (Renewal); **Dennis Phillips**; **Carol Baker** (Renewal) (In memory of David Baker); **Dave Parisot** (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot); March 2018: **Al Bills** (Renewal). April 2018: **Bob Gramm** (Renewal); **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); 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)

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

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

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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.

# Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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## 2017/2018 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499):

December 2017: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind) (Renewal); Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind).(Renewal); Rocky Bayou Golf Course (In-kind) (Renewal).

## 2017/2018 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249):

October 2017: Eye MD of Niceville November 2017: Gator Lakes Golf Course (In-kind) (Renewal); Mary's Kitchen Restaurant (FWB) (In-kind); Buffalo's Reef Restaurant (FWB) (In-kind); December 2017: Tammy's Journeys of FWB (In-kind) (Renewal); Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café (FWB) (In-kind); Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen of FWB (In-kind); Painting With A Twist of FWB (In-kind); Ernie's Dockside Café of Niceville (In-kind); Destin Party Boat Fishing (In-kind);

**Connect with Flowers of Shalimar** (In-kind); **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (In-kind); **The Twisted Grape** of Shalimar (In-kind); **Lee Nissan** (FWB).(In-kind). February 2018: David Beaulieu, Agent for New York Life Insurance.

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

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

## Comedy Corner Answers

1. They both got accepted to West Point.
2. He'll tell you.
3. The Captain was standing on the deck.

### 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).

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We'll get an answer for you.***



