



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 24 No. 09 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services SEPTEMBER 2018

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 6 September 2018  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
Program to follow  
**Place:** Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** Dr Scott-Ireton,  
USS Massachusetts

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.

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## Ever been to Massachusetts?

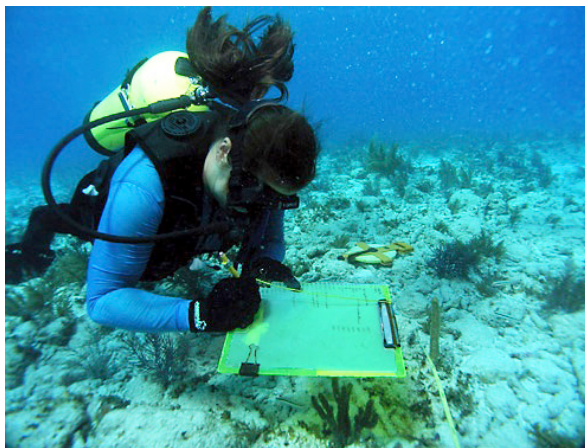
By Scott Berry

If the answer is "no," it'll change to "yes" by the end of our next monthly meeting, because our guest speaker, Dr Della Scott-Ireton, will take us on a tour (or should I say "cruise"? ) of the *USS Massachusetts* which is below the surface of the water in Pensacola Pass. While we've had speakers give presentations on many different subjects in the past, this is probably the most unique of all and our Navy contingent will get excited about it—even though it's the birthday month for the Air Force—they'll have to wait for October.

Researching the *USS Massachusetts* was not a part-time hobby for Dr Scott-Ireton—it's her job and she has all the credentials to do that. She graduated from the University of West Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a Master's degree in Historical Archaeology. She also has a Master's in International Relations from Troy University and if that isn't enough, earned a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Florida State University. Whew! Della is certified as a Scuba Instructor with the National Association of Underwater

Instructors (NAUI). She worked with the Pensacola Shipwreck Survey, West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc., Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, and the government of the Cayman Islands before joining the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN.us) where she serves as Associate Director. Della is a Registered Professional Archaeologist and member of the Florida

Archaeological Council, and has served on the board of the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, and the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory



Committee. Della's research interests include public interpretation of maritime cultural heritage, both on land and under water, and training and engaging "citizen scientists" in archaeological methods and practices.

I'm excited to hear her presentation and perhaps more about the organization she represents. I hope you will be too and join us for the September luncheon. See you there!

# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

'Tis the season for service birthdays. Last month we started with the Coast Guard and will continue on through the end of the year but will have to wait until June for the Army so tune up your vocal chords. In September it'll be up into the wild blue yonder!



Scott Berry

What a great announcement about our selection as a Five Star Level of Excellence chapter AGAIN! As I mentioned at the luncheon, the rules changed this year so I was a little concerned but obviously should not have been as we came through again. This award represents great volunteer work by so many people whose names would take up this entire column to list. Needless to say I'm grateful for all that people have done. There was a time in the not too distant past when four stars was the best we could do. Glad to see that has changed.

And this award didn't come because of fluffy words and trite phrases. We are walking the walk. As an example, Bill Van Hoesen and his committee are marching forward on the Homeless Veterans Stand Down Day and MOAA sees so much value in this effort that they gave him \$3000! MOAA's grant award process is very selective and recipients must meet stringent requirements. Bill and his crew did that and I'm proud to have this chapter leading the charge on this important community event.

I hope lunch attendees have used the recruiting tri-folds given to them to good use. We're inching forward in increasing our chapter membership but could be taking giant leaps with help from more people, so I strongly encourage the widest dissemination of those tri-folds.

## PUBLIC RECORD

### New Members

Wayne (Dave) Davis, Capt (RET), USAF  
Martha LaGuardia-Kotite, CAPT (RET), USCG  
Bruce Ingham, LTC (RET), USA

My goal is to hit 300 members by the end of the year and that's very doable.

We'll be having another Officers Call in October. I think we make it an Oktoberfest theme. It's okay to drink beer during Oktoberfest, isn't it? And maybe Nick Marotta will come through with another raffle of "salubrious spirits." Details to follow.

See you at lunch and bring a prospective member with tri-fold in hand!

Berry "OUT"

## 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Field of Valor

### 5th Annual Field of Valor to Remember Florida's Fallen Since 9/11/01

The Exchange Club of Niceville, along with the Eglin AFB Fisher House will host the 5th annual Field of Valor flag display honoring service members from the State of Florida who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11/01. The event location is the Mullet Festival Grounds in Niceville and will begin on Saturday, Sept. 8 with an opening ceremony at 10:00 am. The Field of Valor will remain open from 12 noon – 8:00 pm on Sept 9 and remain open these hours through Friday, Sept 14. Saturday, Sept.15 the hours will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.



### 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

When deployed to Middle East I was impressed with the operational and medical teams that transported our wounded to military hospitals. As a stretcher bearer chaplain I learned by ‘walking in their shoes’ the depth of their compassion and care. The following is a meditative poem I wrote in the ‘tent terminal’

### MED FLIGHT FROM SOMALIA’S WAR

Recalling nights of broken relationships atop a C130  
I smell the lost inside black bags sealed by living hands  
Carried by six across decades of death and dismemberment

I came prayerfully to listen and respond with gentle care  
Two sides of the frontline merge when death meets life  
Fathers mothers sons and daughters and lost spouse

Where is the true peace we warrior chaplains yearn for  
Who cries with me for the bruised veterans on the green grass  
Come sweet spirit and heal our wounds and numbness

No one, no not one has crawled where you opened paths  
our plane is now your chapel flying home from hell to havens  
of holiness and calm to venerate the breathless young patriots  
to their appointed place next to their relatives brass marker



### TRICARE Retiree Dental Program ends December 31, 2018.

If you are enrolled in or eligible for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program or TRICARE Retired Reserve now what? You may qualify for Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) for 2019--now including DENTAL and/or VISION.

Get Ready: You may enroll during Open Season--from November 12 through December 10, 2018--visit [tricare.benefeds.com](http://tricare.benefeds.com) to learn more about FEDVIP open season and to sign up for email alerts.

### New Starting 2018--TRICARE Health Benefits Open Season

Prime and Select Enrollees may switch benefit plans during open season from November 12 through December 10, 2018. If you choose to do nothing, your plan will remain the same for the next year. Remember, you can only change between Prime and Select Plans during Open Season or with a Qualifying Life Event. Learn more by visiting [tricare.mil/openseason](http://tricare.mil/openseason).



### Comedy Corner (1)

What do you call a Soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray?

Answer on page 7

# USAF Birthday

On 18 September 1947 President Truman signed the National Security Act establishing the United States Air Force as an independent service. In light of their birthday, we will be singing the Air Force Song:

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,  
Climbing high into the sun  
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder  
At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun!  
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under  
Off with one helluva roar!  
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!  
Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!



## Comedy Corner (2)

What's the difference between a Fighter Pilot and a Fighter Jet?

Answer on page 7

# Now and Always We'll be There.



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# 2018 Homeless Veterans Stand Down



NWFMOA President Scott Berry presented a check for \$3,000 on behalf of MOAA/NWFMOA for the 2018 Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the August 3rd Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber Breakfast. Pictured are Bill Van Hoesen of AUSA, Scott Berry, Virginia Barr (Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Okaloosa-Walton), and Dave Parisot.

## Community Corner

### Request for Veterans Stand Down

Please remember we are taking donations for Veterans Stand Down at the NWFMOA Meeting on Thursday, September 6th. If you are able, please help support this worthy cause close to our hearts by bringing items below to the meeting.

**Most Needed Items:** Band Aids, Deodorant, Rain Ponchos, Socks, Mouthwash, Sewing Kits, Sunglasses, Washcloths, Lip Balm, Wet Wipes, Shaving Cream, Puzzle Books, \$5 food Card/Dollar Tree, Colored Tee Shirts XL, 2XL, 3XL, Insect Repellent, Rain Ponchos, Gloves,

**Also Requested Items:** Note pads, Hand Sanitizer, Knit Hats, Reading Glasses, Tissues, Q-tips, Dental Floss, Shaving Razors, Pens, Sunscreen, Tooth Paste, Snack Crackers, Nail Clippers, Decks of Cards, Tooth Brushes.

# ‘Extraordinary Sacrifice’: Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman

## ‘Extraordinary Sacrifice’: Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman Posthumously Awarded the Medal of Honor (Condensed from the Air Force Times)

By: Stephen Losey

Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, the combat controller who was killed trying to save the lives of a team of Army Rangers during a ferocious mountaintop battle in Afghanistan in 2002, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Wednesday.

President Trump presented the nation’s highest award for valor to Chapman’s widow, Valerie Nessel, in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House. Chapman is now the first special tactics airman to receive the Medal of Honor, as well as the first airman to receive the nation’s highest award for valor for actions since the Vietnam War.

Trump described how, from an early age in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, Chapman was driven to “protect those in need.” Even as a young kindergartner, Trump said, he stood up to protect a friend who was being bullied.

“In his high school yearbook, John quoted these words: ‘Give yourself before taking of someone else,’” Trump said. “John lived by that motto every single day. Everybody who knew him said that’s the way he lived.”

After the 9/11 attacks, Trump said Chapman told his commander, “I need to go.” A few months later, Chapman was part of a team of Navy SEALs taking part in Operation Anaconda, one of the most harrowing battles of the early days of the Afghanistan war. After their helicopter took heavy fire during the initial assault, Chapman and the other SEALs volunteered to return and try to rescue a teammate who had been thrown from the helicopter.

They found themselves in a ferocious firefight. Chapman was “the first to charge up the mountain toward the enemy,” Trump said, and left the safety of a bunker he had cleared to assault a second bunker containing al-Qaida fighters. Chapman was shot and lost consciousness, but despite his wounds, he woke up a few minutes later and resumed fighting for about an hour.

Chapman saw another helicopter coming in, containing Army Rangers and airmen, and again emerged from his bunker to fight militants aiming rocket-propelled grenades at them. He was killed, but his actions are believed to have saved the lives of many of the troops on that helicopter.

“John gave his life for his fellow warriors,” Trump said. “Through his extraordinary sacrifice, John saved more than 20 American service members, some of whom are here today.”

The room erupted into raucous cheers as Trump presented the Medal of Honor to a beaming Nessel.



# Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

The new school year has started and the JROTC cadets at our seven sponsored high schools are busy with classes, drills, training, and community events. Many cadets attended the summer camp hosted by Hurlburt Field, learning new skills and received leadership training. When you see a JROTC cadet, please acknowledge him/her and thank them for participating.

Corrections: In the last issue I showed Gold Century Club member **Sam Lombardo** as having served with the USAF; he actually proudly served with the US Army (HooRah!). I had also misspelled **Dann Mattiza**'s name. Corrections have been made in this issue. My apologies. The 50/50 drawing at the August Chapter luncheon was won by **Doris Day**. Ticket sales were \$218 with \$109 to Doris and \$109 to the Scholarship Fund. Doris donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks, Doris, and to all who bought tickets.

**Doris Day** and **Joy Hauck** (in memory of Major Stanley Houck) are new members of the BG Frank Glunn Century Club. Renewal Century Club donors are **Ruth Cullen** (in memory of Bill Cullen) and **Dennis Phillips**. Dennis' most recent donation makes him our newest and 14th member of the **Gold Century Club**. 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:** August 2017: WWII Vet **Sam Lombardo** (In memory of Jean Lombardo)

(Renewal); **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (In memory of Janice Riggensch). 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).

**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) A seasoned veteran.

(2) The jet stops whining when the engines are shut off.

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

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