



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 27 No. 09 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services SEPTEMBER 2021

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 2 Sep 2021

**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
Program to follow

**Place:** Fort Walton Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB

**Program:** Operation Linebacker (pt 1)  
Karl Eschmann (Col Ret)

Please:

- **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

- Wear a name tag

- Bring proper change:

\$14.00 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 Fred Westfall at [nwfreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfreservations@gmail.com), or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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## Operation Linebacker

Welcome one and all to the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association September 2021 issue of the Defender. If you missed our August meeting, you really missed out on a special treat. Representative Patt Maney (BG Retired) was our guest speaker and he gave a rousing recap of his first year as a Florida Representative and the lessons he learned. Rep Maney started off by explaining the problems faced by freshman in the legislature and concluded with the major bills he introduced for the state and Okaloosa County. Those included the "Grandparents" bill which encourages highly qualified out of state students to Florida, and the "Purple Heart" bill which is designed to get schools to provide help to students of military families. He was also instrumental in bringing a recurring \$600,000 to the Northwest Florida State College to help military students. If you did miss the August meeting, do not to fear, our September meeting is shaping up to be an equally informative session, and I hope to see you all there. So without further ado...

Won't you please join us for our September 2nd NWFMOA meeting. Our speaker will be our own Col Karl Eschmann who will present the first of a two-part series on Linebacker. Operation Linebacker was the codename of a U.S. Seventh Air



Col (Ret) Karl Eschmann

Force and U. S. Navy Task Force 77 air interdiction campaign conducted against North Vietnam from 9 May to 23 October 1972, during the Vietnam War. Its purpose was to halt or slow the transportation of supplies and materials for the Easter Offensive, an invasion of South Vietnam by forces of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) that had been launched on 30 March. Linebacker was the first continuous bombing effort conducted against North Vietnam since the end of Operation Rolling Thunder in November 1968. Please join us for what will be an interesting and informative session.

Our meeting will continue under existing CDC and Fort Walton Yacht

## From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

At our September meeting, we will hear once again from our own Karl Eschmann, who previously briefed us on tactical aircraft and IED countermeasures in the Middle East. This month, he'll tell us about Linebacker I, the air operation that played a key role in extricating America from Vietnam and securing the return of our prisoners of war. Next month, he'll tell us about Linebacker II, the second phase of the same air campaign.



**Mike Griffith,  
NWFMoa President**

As I write this, news media are reporting on the apparent collapse of Afghanistan, just as we are about to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the "Nine-Eleven" terrorist attacks which led up to the US invasion of Afghanistan and twenty years of resulting warfare.

Recently, an American missionary who spent several years in Afghanistan with his family told me how heartbroken he is to know that thousands of Afghan Christians, including many personal friends of his, as well as many women, children, and other innocent people, including anyone suspected of ever cooperating with Americans, are likely to face execution as the Taliban take over the country.

Although I served in the Gulf War, I retired before Nine-Eleven, so I cannot say for certain how this feels for those of you who served in Afghanistan.

But, I can guess, and my heart goes out to you all, and to the people of Afghanistan who placed their trust in America.

May God have mercy on all concerned.

Continued on page 4

## PUBLIC RECORD

### New Members:

Charles Shoff, Capt, USAF

### In Memorium

None

## Cool Off at Officers Call

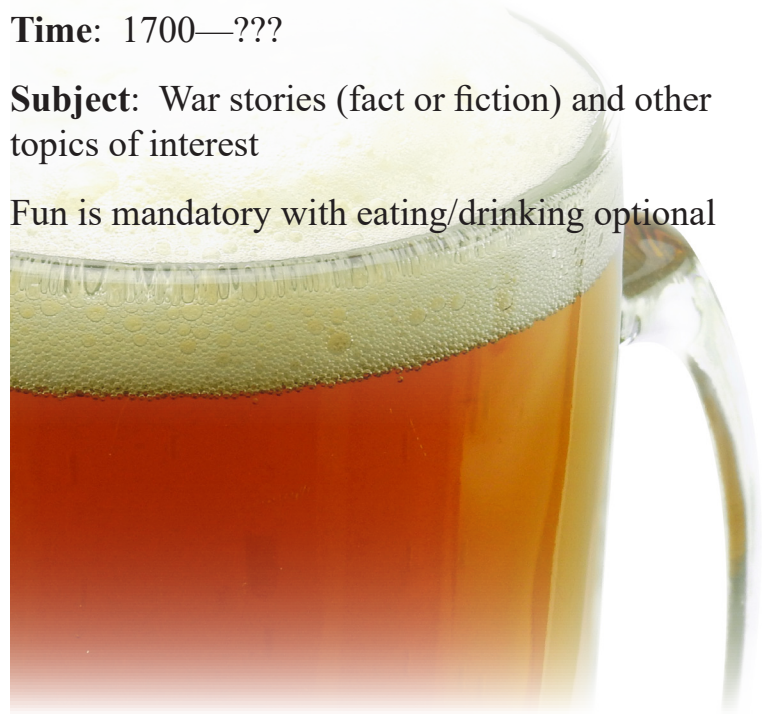
**When:** Thursday, 23 September!

**Where:** Cheers, 1270 Eglin Pkway, Shalimar.

**Time:** 1700—???

**Subject:** War stories (fact or fiction) and other topics of interest

Fun is mandatory with eating/drinking optional



## Why a COLA Spike Could Put Retirees' Pay Adjustment at Risk

By: Kevin Lilley (*Revised from MOAA.org*)

Visitors to MOAA's COLA Watch have seen a skyrocketing graph the last few months. It points to the potential for a large cost-of-living adjustment in future retiree pay, but it also presents an unwelcome opportunity for the erosion of your earned benefits.

First, the graph: The May monthly figure for the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released in June, was 4% above the FY 2021 baseline. That's the largest increase above the baseline since MOAA began its current method of tracking the index in 2016.

If that number continues its upward climb to the end of the fiscal year, it could join 2008 (5.8%) and easily surpass 2005 (4.1%) as the largest increases since 1990. And it would mean

Continued on page 5

# Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

## DO YOU HAVE FISHING GEAR

My dad's favorite mantra to his five children was "What would you rather do than go fishing?" That was a hint we were going on vacation. Eventually it became my lifelong quote to my kids. Unfortunately, this summer's family reunion in the Adirondacks has been the worst for fishing. Usually my neighbors and I can catch rainbows, lake trout, and salmon. We sadly learned someone from the fishery mistakenly put hundreds of baby pike in a few years back. They have eaten all the smaller fish. One friend recently caught a 30 inch pike and when he went to clean it discovered an undigested rainbow inside. I never saw that in all my decades of fresh water fishing.

Last month we fished and caught nothing! Then the local church needed the pulpit fill, I used this real world experience to inform my sermon. Do you remember the story or the picture of the carpenter Jesus telling Simon Peter the fisherman and his associates that he knew where to catch the big ones out on the Sea of Galilee?

As you may know the cool night draws the fish up closer to the surface water. Likewise, the hot daylight sends them into deeper water making it difficult for the limited netting to catch them. Jesus was asking them in the middle of the day to do what was contrary to the norm.

Many non-spiritual persons have only the external way of the world to guide their earthly decision making. Those who are in a committed relationship with the Trinity and put their faith into action have a different set of guiding Biblical principles and saintly examples to emulate.

Since Peter and his team were good Jews and just experienced Jesus preaching and healing, they decided to step out in faith, keep Jesus in their boat, and follow his request to leave the shoreline and head out "into the deep."

Wow what a shock! They caught more fish than their nets could hold. They yelled to other boats to come and assist. Even their vessels began to sink because there was a multitude of fish. After this Peter realized his pattern of worldly thinking paled in relationship to God's way. In fact, he was so overwhelmed at the miracle he was a part of that he fell to his knees and asked Christ to depart because "I'm a sinful man."

Their fishing trip was more than magic or a freak happening. It is our model to aim high, and seek and follow the God who knows, loves and provides for those who trust and obey. Faith is "the hope of things not seen."

Moreover, the catch of the day was not just kilos of fish, but more importantly the first disciples: Peter, James and John. They dropped the nets of their family business to follow the higher spiritual path of Jesus. They spent the next three years learning and abiding in Christ.

When my family and I go fishing, we always pray in the boat for safety, good weather, conversation and hopefully the big one. In like manner, believers are encouraged to share our faith with others-family, relatives, neighbors and coworkers. We want them to experience the peace that "passes all understanding."

Whatever your self-thoughts or skills, God can use them as part of the bigger team. It's not difficult especially in this decade of confusion and division to realize we need to graduate from being "shoreline believers" to deep water fishermen. Our nation needs more informed examples of overcomers- -men and women of light in these dark and dangerous times. Our fellow Americans can grow from our sharing of gifts and talents. The future of our nation leans on veterans who have waged and won the battles.

MOAA retirees are the fishers of truth. Our words and actions give internal hope and external guidance for those we cross paths. It is time to reverse the tide--to get off the superficial shoreline of worldly mediocrity and go deep to help guide others emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. It's time to cut bait and fish! (I now know why many squadrons gave their retiring commander a fishing pole).

Our small role is to speak the truth with love. We cannot save people, only guide them to the truth by sharing our personal testimony of how God's grace has renewed us. Then we enjoin them in the fellowship of caring believers, who like the other fishermen, can in turn assist them in their journey with God.

Like the bumper sticker says: "You catch them, Jesus will clean them." Now that you know this, what would you rather do than go fishing?



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### ***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.

## President's Pen (cont.)

Continued from page 2

On a lighter note: At our past two meetings, I have read aloud the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble of the US Constitution, and the words of our National Anthem.

At our September meeting, I'll read the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. These readings are intended to re-familiarize us all with the founding principles of the United States, the meaning of such words as "freedom" and "liberty," and what it is about America that makes it worth our support and defense.

See you soon

## Operation Linebacker (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Club COVID-19 restrictions. For those who have been fully vaccinated, wearing a mask is optional. However, if you are showing symptoms or feeling ill or feverish, PLEASE do not attend.

Our September 2nd lunch will start with a social gathering at 1130 with lunch to be served at 1200. To make reservations go to [NWFMoa.org](http://NWFMoa.org) and select the "Online Reservations" link. You may also call me at 850-609-8075 or email me at [nwfreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfreservations@gmail.com).

Reservations are **REQUIRED** and must be made by no later than **AUGUST 28th**.

### ***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.

# Happy Birthday USAF!

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 now, 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!

## NWFMOA Scholarship Form

### 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):

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# COLA Spike (cont.)

Continued from page 2

a significant boost to retiree pay and other benefits indexed to the CPI-W (Social Security, most notably) – but there's a catch.

MOAA has fought an ongoing battle to prevent Congress from altering this equation by either de-linking the retired-pay increase from CPI-W entirely or using some other calculation, such as a "Chained CPI." (A chained CPI calculates user spending patterns differently than the traditional model and – not surprisingly, results in a lower growth rate leading to smaller COLA increases. One chained CPI variant tracked about 0.25 percentage points below the traditional calculation each year since 2001.) A significant increase in the CPI-W, like the one projected, would provide a tempting target for a chained CPI.

Why? Any changes this year could be masked by the increase itself. If the CPI-W dictates a 5% increase, for example, Congress could cut that to 3% and proclaim, accurately, that it had provided the largest retiree pay bump since 2011. That may seem significant to those outside the uniformed services community, but retirees would see an immediate erosion in their earned benefit – their retired pay would not keep pace with rising prices, and their quality of life could suffer.

### MOAA's Response

It falls to MOAA and other veterans advocacy groups to remind Congress of the impact these decisions make immediately on individuals...and the even more pronounced impact they have when compounded over time. While shaving 2 percentage points may not seem significant, especially as lawmakers deal with other budget issues and a rising debt, it could mean hundreds or thousands of dollars per year less than a military family had budgeted – and had earned through service.



# Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

As mentioned last month, due to COVID-19 impacts on students being able to attend classes in person and particularly impacts on the ROTC programs at various colleges, we have allowed our scholarship winners for 2020 and 2021 to have a 2-year period to claim their scholarships.

Although activities are slow, rest assured that we are still accepting donations to the Scholarship Fund program. Please see the donation form in the Defender.

The 50/50 raffle at the August luncheon meeting was won by **Chuck Merkel**. Total ticket sales were \$200 with \$100 to Chuck and \$100 to the Scholarship Fund. Chuck became the latest member of the Century Club by graciously donating his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund in honor of our guest speaker, State Representative Patt Maney. My thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets.

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 2019 and 2020 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets. [Note: (R) means Renewal of membership.]

**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 & Irene 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 & Charlotte Eschmann** (Oct 2018); **Carol Baker** (Jan 2019); **Ann Adelsperger** (Feb 2019); **Don Litke** (August 2019); **Fred Boyer** (August, 2019). **Dr. Keith Kulow** (Nov 2019); **Al Bills** (Nov. 2019); **Kay Dent** (Nov. 2019); **Dr. Roger Riegenbach** (Dec. 2019); **Robert “Pete” Peterzen** (Dec. 2019); **Nick Marotta** (Oct 2020); **Kathy & Jesse Bush** (Dec. 2020); **Patt & Caroline Maney** (Dec. 2020); **Kevin Kirby** (April 2021); and, **Scott & Janet Berry** (May 2021). [Note: 29 total members]

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club** (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): **September 2020: Doug Hardin** (R) (In

memory of Gen. Bill Kirk); **October 2020: WWII Vet Sam Lombardo** (R) (In memory of Jean Lombardo); **Nick Marotta** (R); **George Colton** (R); **November 2020: Bob Gramm** (R); **Larry Tashlik** (R); **Howard Fisher** (R); and **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R); **December 2020: Robert “Pete” Peterzen** (R); **Dennis Phillips** (R); **Craig Miller; Jesse & Kathy Bush** (R); **Larry Bush** (R); **Scott & Janet Berry** (R); **Patrick Boab** (R); and, **Jeffrey Watson; Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Bob Garcia** (R); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Chris Beam** (R); **Les Matheson** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Mrs. Chong Parisot); and, **Patt & Caroline Maney.** **January 2021: Fred Westfall** (R); **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); **February 2021: Rod Gerdes** (R); and **Chris Beam** (R); **March 2021: Dave Davis** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day); **Fred Boyer** (R) (In honor of Marlene Bosak); **Joy Houck** (R) (In memory of Maj. Stanley Houck); **April 2021: Dr. Keith Kulow** (R); **Kevin Kirby;** **May 2021: Larry Bush** (R); **Patrick Boab** (R); **Al Bills** (R); **Scott & Janet Berry** (R); **Dick Solt** (R); **June 2021: Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Lt.Col. Sam Lombardo); **August 2021: Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); **Donald Litke** (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); **Anonymous** (In memory of David Baker); **Chuck Merkel** (In honor of Patt Maney).

**2019/2020 Business Platinum Donor** (\$750 minimum donation): **October 2019: Shalimar Cheers Pub** (\$1,000) (R).

**2019/2020 Business Gold Donor** (\$500 - \$749): **December 2019: Eglin Federal Credit Union** (R); **Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass, Senior Financial Advisors)** (R); **Silver Slipper Casino Hotel** (Bay St. Louis, MS) (In-Kind); **May 2021: Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass).**

**2020/2021 Business Silver Donors** (\$250 - \$499): **November 2019: Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind, R); **December 2019: Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind, R).

**2021 Business Bronze Donors** (\$100 - \$249): (R); **May 2021: Eye MD of Niceville** (R)

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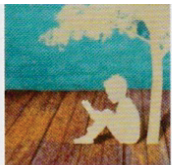
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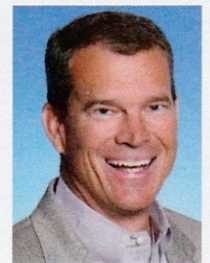
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**\*\*The spouse of a deceased life member is automatically an auxiliary life member**

### Membership Application/ Renewal

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