



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 29 No 9

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

September 2023

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thursday 7 September 2023
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Captain Austin Bury, Director of Military Affairs for Congressman Matt Gaetz

MAKE A RESERVATION

- Reservations are Required
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change: \$16 each

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at <http://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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Our September Meeting Features Captain Austin Bury

Austin Bury is a native of Malvern, PA, and attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where he received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service. Upon graduation in 2015, Austin attended the United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA, and commissioned as Second Lieutenant. At the Basic School he was assigned as a Ground



Intelligence Officer which took him through Infantry Officers Course and Ground Intelligence Officers Course before he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA, and assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st MARDIV as the Battalion S-2. In 2019, Austin was hand-selected from across the Division to serve as the Targeting Officer for a purpose-built task force, Task Force Anbar (formerly Spartan) in Al-Anbar Province, Iraq, where he served from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020 as part of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Upon returning stateside he reached his End of Active Service, later accepting a contracting job with Torch Technologies for the U.S. Army as Security Manager with the Program Executive Office – Missiles & Space at Redstone Arsenal, AL. In June 2022, Austin accepted his current role as Director of Military Affairs for Congressman Matt Gaetz (FL01) which he has held since.

Austin will join us to discuss his personal experiences, how he came to join the strong military community here in Northwest Florida, his roles and responsibilities supporting the Congressman Matt Gaetz, key topics affecting the District (NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, Hurlburt Field, Eglin Air Force Base & Eastern Gulf Test and Training Range) and answering questions from the Chapter.

Please join us for our **September 7th** Membership Meeting. Click [HERE](#) to make reservations or call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075.

From the President's Pen

By Fran Hendricks



Bylaws Revision

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When the current NWFMOA Board was seated in January, we began to look at the Chapter's by-laws. Were they current? Did they need to be updated? We noted Scott Berry was the NWFMOA President the last time the by-laws were reviewed and approved by the Chapter. Hence, we concluded it was time for another look. So, for the past nine months, we have been working on what we feel are needed revisions. You can see our proposed revisions on the NWFMOA webpage. We, as a Chapter, will vote at the November Lunch Meeting, to accept or decline the Board's recommended changes. I invite all Chapter Members to review the proposed by-laws and contact me or any Board member with any concerns.

In a nutshell, the proposed revisions make some needed housekeeping updates and some changes that further codify membership eligibility and the role of the Board. A brief synopsis follows.

Membership: As an IRS recognized 501(c)19 (Veteran Organization), NWFMOA is allowed a couple different categories of membership. They include: Voting Members; Auxiliary Members; Associate Members; and Honorary Members. All pay dues except Honorary Members. Associate Members are limited to 2.5% of the total Chapter Voting Membership.

Immediate Past-President: Serves as an Ex-Officio Member of the Board and is non-voting.

Proxies: The Board approved the use of proxies earlier this year. The impacted Board Member notifies the President and Secretary in writing (email) in advance of their pending absence and identifies who will have their proxy. This ensures Chapter business is not impeded by their absence.

Standing Committees: Budget and Finance Committees have been added.

Financial Management and Oversight: Here we further clarify the Board's role in managing and overseeing the financial actions performed by all NWFMOA activities.

Mandatory Audit: Whenever the President or Treasurer leave office, there is a mandatory audit performed within 30 days.

Bylaws Review: While an amendment to the by-laws can be requested by any Chapter Voting Member at any time, the Board proposes a mandatory review of the by-laws every three years. The next review would be scheduled for 2026.

I respectfully request you take the time to review the proposed revisions to our by-laws. We, as a Chapter, will vote to accept or decline these changes at our scheduled monthly meeting in November. [Click here to read the proposed bylaws.](#)

Also, below is a list of our upcoming speakers for the remainder of this year.

- September 7, Captain Austin Bury, US Marine Corps (Congressman Gaetz Office)
- October 5, Col Andy Weaver, USAF Ret, HQ AAFES
- November 2, State Rep BG Patt Maney, US Army Reserve Retired
- December 7, Opus One Niceville High School Choir

H2S
Fran Hendricks
President, NWFMOA

Salute to Col Bill Byerley, 43rd President,

Col Bill Byerley passed away on July 31, 2023. Bill was a great warrior, leader, friend, and our 43rd Chapter President. He served as president from 2002-2004. It was then that I first met Bill. I was serving as the 96 Air Base Wing Commander (Eglin AFB) and I would attend the NWFMOA monthly breakfast meetings at the Officers Club and provide a monthly update on what was happening on the base. It was through these Chapter meetings that I got to know Bill and NWFMOA and became a member.



Bill's Memorial Service was held on August 12th at the Shalimar United Methodist Church. The church was filled with family, friends, and many NWFMOA members. In addition to several Ministers who led us in prayer and song, our very own Lt Col Al Sterns reminded all of us of Bill's life and accomplishments. They were the best of friends. In fact, Al immediately preceded Bill as President, NWFMOA and recruited Bill to be his successor. As a Past President, Bill remained active in the Chapter until his passing.

Bill's obituary is available [HERE](#). Please know as a Chapter, we have extended an offer of continued service and assistance to Jeanne. We are here for her.

Col Bill Byerley, USAF Retired, we salute you and your service to our Country, our community, and our Chapter. Rest in Peace our Fellow Brother in Arms for we have the Watch.

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired
54th President, NWFMOA

NEVER STOP SERVING

Member Spotlight

Dick Solt, Col, USAF (Retired)



Born 1938 in small town of 3,000 people in Palmerton, Pa. Graduated from Palmerton High where I played quarterback, pitched baseball and was the 1956 Senior Class President. Went to Penn State, then about 40,000 students, was selected for Advanced Air Force ROTC, and graduated as a 2nd Lt USAF IN 1960 and the start of a 30-year career that was far different from most other Air Force officers. From a start in logistics



at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, with a side duty as mortuary officer, which caused me to volunteer for an overseas assignment in Incirlik, Turkey. My boss there was Colonel Travis Hoover, who flew the second bomber off the USS Hornet on the Doolittle raid. We had B-47 bombers there with nukes, on alert to strike Russia during the Cuban Missile Crisis. For some reason all senior logistics officers were canceling their assignments to Incirlik during this period and as a 1Lt I had charge of all logistics. Colonel Hoover really liked me and referred me to HQ Tactical Air Command to work for his friends Generals Sweeney and Disosway. They were two tough Generals and I was sent to chemical biological school at Dugway, Utah, and on multiple rapid deployments and exercises worldwide. They awarded me the Tactical Air Command Langley AFB Junior Officer of the Year. And then sent me to Vietnam on New Year's Eve of 1968! I was there during the first and second TET offensives, working various projects in support of all fighter and gunship aircraft, the Quiet Bird, and forward air controllers. During the first TET our base, Tan Son Nhut, was nearly overrun with over 200 VC killed on base. During the second TET we had constant 122MM rocket attacks with one blowing the roof off my office and knocking me over. My boss and tennis partner, General Worley, went off on a RF-4 RECCE mission and never came back. But he did work an assignment for me before he was killed, to go to HQ PACAF IN Hawaii to follow up on the projects I was working in Vietnam and Thailand, which meant years of returning to the war zone. Then Air Command and Staff College followed by a tour to the Air force Military Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Texas. A challenging job making assignments and career development for over 1000 officers. Was on the briefing team that went around the world, including briefing the B-52 crews flying death missions, and alerting them that the rating criteria was changing and not all could receive top ratings. Had quarterly meetings with senior generals in the Pentagon to report on success/problems faced by my officers. Reported the dissatisfaction with the new rating system, which was totally wrong during wartime conditions. From there to Kelly AFB, Texas, working with Northrop Aircraft to put over 1,300 F-5 fighter aircraft into foreign countries. First involved with Iran, but when the regime changed, focused on Saudi Arabia who purchased 120 F-5 aircraft. Saudi selected Northrop to build and upgrade several bases for the F-5s. My job became one of constant travel between Northrop in Hawthorne, CA., Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon, HQ AFLC, Wright- Patterson AFB, Ohio, and my home base. Northrop was good at making the F-5, but not good at building air bases, with constant construction delays and cost overruns. A most interesting pressure job, with Saudis offering me a second wife if I didn't get it fixed. But I did, and was selected to go to Canberra, Australia, to attend

their Defense College. As the only American student, I was considered a foreign student along with others from Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Canada, England, New Zealand. While at the school was coerced to work with the CIA to track a Soviet student of interest to the U.S. who was in my dorm at the Master's House at the University of Australia. Had fun doing that and got great accolades from the Ambassador for my help. Attending this school required a follow-on assignment to Camp Smith, Hawaii, to work for the Navy Commander in Chief of the Pacific. Also assigned with me was Army Brig General Norman Schwarzkopf. We became good friends. I worked on the bridge for three different Commanders in Chief of the Pacific: Admirals Wiesner, Long and Crowe. For 5 years I assisted with briefings, and murder boards in preparation for Senate and Congressional Armed Service Hearings. At the hearings I was the one person in uniform behind the Admiral, with papers to hand to him if needed. Lots of pressure, especially when flying on the plane from Hawaii to Washington with nervous Admirals asking me Navy questions. When asked why they kept an Air Force guy in this job, was told I was easier to fire than a Navy guy. Got assigned all sorts of jobs while at CINCPAC. Was assigned to support President Carter's Ambassador in charge of the Micronesia Status negotiations, involving all the islands in Micronesia, Palau, Kosrae, Saipan, Tinian, Peleliu, and Yap. Was selected to escort American Samoans assigned to Pearl Harbor to attend American Samoa Day in American Samoa. Flew over on a P3, that also was assigned to drop off 6 Army paratroopers to kick off American Samoa Day. It did, but returned with a low pass and attempted to fly under a swinging bridge, got caught in the cable and crashed into the hotel where we all were staying. All five aboard were killed. So, I became the CINCPAC man on the scene and remained in American Samoa to assist the casualty and investigative teams. Sad. Also, at CINCPAC, worked with General Schwarzkopf to put on an extravagant change of command for Admirals Long and Crowe. It was a Cecil B. DeMille performance at Hickam AFB inside the two large hangers, and may never be equaled. I really liked my time at CINCPAC but told them I had to get back in the Air Force. So I was assigned to the Pentagon in the Secretary of Defense Office under Caspar Weinberger for 2 years, and saw little daylight. Normal work day was 6am to 6pm. But rewarding experience like getting a master's degree in the workings of Washington. Then finally, I got selected as a Division Chief on the Air Staff in international programs, supporting countries in the Americas involved with the Contra War. I had 12 fighter pilots in my division and made constant trips to the Americas assisting their air forces with aircraft and support. Personally worked with Israel to provide spares to Honduras for their Super Mystere aircraft needed against Nicaragua tanks to avoid an escalation of Russian aircraft upgrade in the region. Had a C-141 move a Quonset hut of spares from Israel to Honduras, with help from the SECDEF and Air Force Chief. Final assignment was as Commander of foreign military training, with HQ Air Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas, which included foreign military pilot, navigator, technical and language training. Upon retiring headed to Saudi Arabia where he assisted the Royal Saudi Air Force with their F-15S program during Desert Storm. Again, linked up with General Schwarzkopf. Ended up remaining in Saudi Arabia for 11 years with Boeing for the delivery of 72 F-15S aircraft and logistics support, and continued working as Saudi Arabia consultant with Boeing until 2016. I received the Defense Superior Service Medal from the Secretary of Defense, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Service and Campaign Medals, Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and a multitude of Air Force Outstanding Unit, Commendation and Organizational Excellence awards.

[For more pictures of Col Solt, click HERE.](#)

We Need Your Help

In January 2024, a new slate of officers will be voted in to assume the duties of the NWMOA Board. We will be losing two very important officers, the Treasurer and the Secretary. Combined, both current officers in these positions have served for almost two decades and they wish to pass these duties on to other members of our chapter who would be willing to serve and provide continuing leadership to keep our Chapter moving towards the future. Normally these positions would be a short term required service by members willing to serve, and we would not be asking anyone to serve longer than they wanted to. So we are asking for help from our membership to please consider volunteering for these two positions. The position descriptions are as follows:

The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and shall be responsible for, all funds due and collected, receipts and disbursements given, and securities of NWFMOA. Disbursements are made on vouchers approved by the Board of Directors, or as may be appropriate upon authorization of the Board of Directors. The duties of the Treasurer shall be subject to such regulations as imposed by the IRS and the State of Florida. Further, the Board of Directors may make specific requests for information or expenditure of funds as needed. The Treasurer will provide the Board monthly reports on the financial status of NWFMOA. NWFMOA operates two accounts. A 501(c)19 Community Outreach), and a general Chapter Account, which also falls under the Chapter's IRS 501(c)19 designation. As such, the Treasurer will ensure that separate accounts are established, maintained, and used solely by and for the two specifically focused entities. There will be no commingling of funds in accounts between the Community Outreach account, and/or the Chapter's general account. The Chapter Treasurer will provide the NWFMOA Board and the NWFMOA President an annual report on the status of all 501(c)19 funds (donations, expenditures, investment gains/losses, interest gained, etc., NLT the end of January.

The Secretary. The Secretary captures the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Chapter. The Secretary sees that notices are given in accordance with the provision of the Chapter's Bylaws. Except for the financial records, which are kept by the Treasurer, the Secretary keeps all records, to include past editions of the association newsletter and the minutes of its meetings, including meetings of the Board of Directors and Chapter meetings. The Secretary keeps a register of the names and mailing address of all members, including those who also belong to national. The Secretary keeps on file a complete copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a complete copy of the NWFMOA Bylaws.

These two positions are key to the continued success of our Chapter. While it sounds like a lot to do, our processes are very well defined. The transition will be very much "plug and play". Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Feel free to ask Fran, George, or Fred about the position you have interest. The Chapter is operating exceptionally well now, and we could use your assistance in keeping us moving forward. Thank you.

Save The Date

Annual MOAA Military Ball, 14 December 2023

Our annual Military Ball will resume this year again and is scheduled to be on Thursday, 14 December 2023 at the FWB Yacht Club. The dinner menu will be similar to the last Ball in December 2022. This year we will again be charging our members and guests \$60 per person. The ticket order form will be in the digital Defender starting in September. Just a reminder: the dress for the men at the Ball is Mess Dress (if it still fits), formal, tuxedo or business suit. For the ladies it is Gown or Cocktail Dress.

The Band at our Ball will be the Brighton Street Band. They are led by Doug Chambers and are composed of three Band Members. They have agreed to perform again for four hours from the start of the social hour, through dinner, and after dinner dancing. They play all types of music, not real loud, some Christmas music, and also patriotic songs. A good fit for our crowd. So if anyone has any specific questions about the Ball, please email either Karl Eschmann, phanfix@cox.net) or Dick Solt at richdulce@aol.com .

Just to refresh everyone's memory on the Ball Night's program, it will look like this:

- 1800: Social Begins; Pay as you go Bar; Soft Band music (Scholarship Fund Raffle begins)
- 1845: Call to Dinner
- 1900: Opening Remarks by the MC, Invocation, presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, President's Remarks and toasts
- 1920: Dinner is served (soft music by the band)
- 2000: Break
- 2015: Dancing to Brighton Street Band music
- 2100: Raffle winning tickets announced
- 2115-2200: More dancing to music

We hope to see as many of you all as possible this year, as well as active military and other guests at our event! We need your attendance and support for the Ball to have a good social setting for our members to start the Christmas Season! Please send in your checks and ticket forms by the end of November so we can turn in the estimated number of meals for the yacht club staff.

NEVER STOP SERVING

Test Your Knowledge

Take the quiz for a chance to
← win a free lunch.

This month the quiz is about UFOs. When you click on the link below, you will see a single question and a place to give your answer and name. If your answer is correct, you will be entered into the drawing at the monthly meeting (you have to be present to win your free meal). You may answer the question multiple times but only the correct answer will count for the drawing (so answering the question correctly 5 times will not give you more chances to win). We don't tell anyone that they got it right or wrong until we disclose the winner at the meeting. At the meeting, we state the answer and how many got it right. Then we pull the winner from the hat.

Last month the winner of the quiz was **Nick Marotta**. Congratulations Nick!

Click the link below to get to the quiz. The winner will be announced at the next meeting.

<https://forms.gle/L7Qhd4SqXHjo8C1A7>

Our Gift To You



Is your birthday this month? If so, you eat for FREE. Starting this month, members will get a free lunch meal if it is your birth month. You must sign up for the meeting meal and the offer is only good during your birth month. Take advantage of the member benefit during your birth month.

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Ray Alexander



Prayer for the People of our Nation

I come boldly before you today to praise you and thank you for your grace, guidance, and provision that you have given us since our beginning. Your presence and our obedience to your word and righteous justice for all have led us to be a strong people. This has formed our heart's attitudes toward each person that makes us one people. I ask today that you do not forsake us nor turn away from us but show us your loving patience that we might make it through our struggles and continue to be a united people caring for the needs of all.

I ask that you help us change our hearts to reflect the freedoms we hold dear and not let them slip away as those who have believed a lie or as those who no longer care. Let us manifest the love we see in your patience toward us and exercise it toward all.

I ask that it not end with the people but let it start with the people as we pray for our elected officials of this Republic. I ask that you judge their works and ensure that our leaders are just and righteous reflecting your truth and the intentions of our founding Fathers and its people. May their hearts reflect a reverence for you and obedience to your statutes lest we be led astray. May they rule in a way that reflects the love and authority of Christ.

May your Spirit move upon all giving us peace and security from all your enemies foreign and domestic.

This I pray for our people, Executive branch, Congress, House of Representatives, Judicial and Military, and those who serve this great nation. These things I humbly ask in your name.

OUR MISSION

The mission of NWFMOA is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

[Click here to read the proposed bylaws.](#)
Voting will be at the November meeting.

Officers Call

Our next officers call will be on November 30 at a place TBD.

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

Bill Byerley, Col, USAF, July 31, 2023

Charles "Skip" Harrington, Col, USAF,
July 31, 2023

New Members

Jeanne Rief, Surviving Spouse

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.

**Order your NWFMOA
POLO Shirt today.**



Click this box for an order form.




Never Stop Serving

Help Prevent Veteran Suicide

Together We Can End Veteran Suicide

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

STAND WATCH FOR A VET
30 SECONDS TO SIGN UP
30 MINUTES OF TRAINING
...A LIFETIME OF SAVING LIVES



STAND AGAINST VETERAN SUICIDE

THEFIREWATCH.ORG

BECOME A WATCH STANDER.

The Watch Stander program is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Creating a life-saving community network that is there to support our local veterans in their time of need. Sign up today with 3 short steps.

- 1 Commit To Help.**
Sign up to be a Watch Stander. It takes only 30 seconds to sign up and you will be looking for the warning signs to help a veteran in crisis. Visit thefirewatch.org to register.
- 2 Identify The Signs.**
Attend a 30-min training session that will educate you on the challenges veterans face daily, and how to recognize a veteran showing signs of crisis.
- 3 Stand Watch.**
Stand Watch and be there to help when you hearback comes.



STAND AGAINST VETERAN SUICIDE

THE FIRE WATCH
5011 GATE PARKWAY, BLDG 100, SUITE 100
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256
904.834.7420 | INFO@THEFIREWATCH.ORG



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Community Outreach

By: Dave Parisot



OCCWS Inducts Chapter Spouse Into Hall of Fame; NWFMOA to have Information Booth at 2023 Emerald Coast Home and Boat Show Sept. 23-24; Veterans Stand Down Nov. 4th; Commissary Gift Card Project for Junior Enlisted Families; Honoring Our Heroes: Task Force Dagger (Saturday, Oct. 21st)



The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women (OCCWS) will host its annual **Hall of Fame induction ceremony** on Monday, August 28th, at 5:30PM at the Emerald Coast Convention Center on Okaloosa Island. One of this year's inductees is **Cindy Frakes**, the wife of Lt. Col., USAF, Ret., **Bernie Frakes**.

Cindy is being recognized for her extensive involvement in community service. While a professional real estate agent for over 40 years, Cindy Frakes sat on the Okaloosa County School Board for 16 years; has been a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer for neglected and abused children; is a past chair of Opportunity Place providing housing for homeless families; sat on the Taylor Haugen Foundation Board promoting sports safety and protection; is a member of Choctawhatchee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and, is a past chair of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County. Our sincerest congratulations on her selection to the 2023 Hall of Fame.

The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women (OCCSW) was established by the Board of County Commissioners in 1995. Its purpose is to eliminate barriers to achievement for women through research, education and communication, and to recognize and honor women who have made significant contributions toward improving the status of women and other citizens of Okaloosa County. The [OCCSW has 15 members](#), including some appointed by County Commissioners as well as representatives from various women's organizations. [The OCCSW founded the Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame](#) in 1995, which annually honors outstanding county women from past to present. The pictures of Hall of Fame members are displayed at the Okaloosa County Commission offices, the Niceville City Council Chambers and the Crestview Courthouse.

With her induction to the Hall of Fame for 2023, Cindy joins at least nine previous NWFMOA Chapter members or spouses from previous years: **Charlotte Eschmann** (2021); **Caroline Maney** (2019); **Lt. Col. Gayle Norgaard** (2018); **Tammy McDaniel** (2017); **Mary Lou Reed** (2016); **Doris Day** (2010); **Jean Dutton** (2009); **Jeanne Rief** (2006); and, **Eileen Arpke** (2004). It should be noted that each of these women earned this honor in their own right for their activities in their businesses or communities, or both. Congratulations to Cindy Frakes as one of this year's Hall of Fame Inductees. To read more about the OCCSW and to review all of the Hall of Fame inductees, go to their website at www.occsw.com.

You are cordially invited to the

Okaloosa County

Women's Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony & Honoree Reunion

Honorees: *Bonnie R. Barlow* *Cindy Frakes*
 Hon. Judge Patricia Grinstead *Lt Betty Jo Hunter, retired*
 Col Teresa W. Ryan, USAF, retired, DNS

Keynote Speaker

Judy Byrne Riley
Local Activist, Past Hall of Fame Inductee
Past Vice Chair, Florida Commission on the Status of Women

August 28, 2023 at the Emerald Coast Convention Center
Hors d'oeuvres and beverage bar opens at 5:30pm
Ceremony at 6pm



Kindly RSVP: theocsw@gmail.com

Our NWFMOA Chapter will have an information booth at the **2023 Emerald Coast Home and Boat Show** on Saturday, Sept. 23rd from 10AM – 5PM, and on Sunday, Sept. 24th from 11AM – 4PM, at the Emerald Coast Convention Center on Okaloosa Island. We will provide information on the benefits of Chapter membership, the NWFMOA Scholarship Program, and our Community Outreach activities, e.g., Commissary Gift Cards for junior enlisted families, Veterans Stand Down on Nov. 3rd, and, Wreaths

**24th ANNUAL
EMERALD COAST
HOME & BOAT SHOW**

September 23 & 24, 2023
BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE NOW!
Destin—Ft. Walton Beach Convention Center

Across America on Dec. 16th at 9AM at the Beal Cemetery. We will have donation forms at the booth for all of these community service programs. **(To donate to any of these Community Outreach programs, click on the 'Community Outreach' page at our website of www.NWFMOA.org, then click to open the donation form.)** This year's Home and Boat Show will have over 100 vendors. Admission is free to the public. We thank Wes Fell, event organizer, for his graciousness in donating our booth space.

Our NWFMOA Chapter will also have a booth at this year's **Veterans & Families Resource Fair and Veterans Stand Down** on 8th at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds on Lewis Turner Blvd.

This past February we applied for a grant of \$3,500 from the **MOAA Foundation** for this event to purchase warm clothing for the winter months and toiletry items for local needy Veterans. In May, we were awarded a grant of \$2,800 by the MOAA Foundation for this event. To maximize our purchasing power, we have been purchasing new clothing items (t-shirts, blue jeans, sports pants, shirts/blouses, socks, etc. for both men and women) at deeply discounted 'clearance prices' at Walmart and on-line wholesalers. This is currently a 'work in process'. However, on the day of the event, we will need about 6 to 8 Chapter volunteers to sort, arrange, and handout the items, and verify Veteran IDs. If you are able and willing to assist, please **contact either Dave Parisot or Fran Hendricks**.

This past February, we also applied for a grant from the **MOAA Foundation** to again purchase **\$25 gift cards at the Eglin Commissary to distribute to local junior enlisted families (E-4 & below)** in November prior to Thanksgiving. In May, we were awarded \$1,500 for this project by the MOAA Foundation. Our project goal is to collect at least \$6,000 to purchase at least 240 gift cards. At the May 4th monthly luncheon, we received \$469 in the envelopes on the tables, for a current 'pot' of \$1,969. This leaves us the challenge of raising an additional \$4,031 to reach our goal. If you would like to assist with this fund-raising, please see the **Donation Form** on the Community Outreach page on our Chapter website. A donation of \$25 will purchase one gift card and help one family; a donation of \$100 will help four families.

Join the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce for "**Honoring Our Heroes: Task Force Dagger**," a special event that pays tribute to the bravery and dedication of the US Military's Task Force Dagger after the devastating terrorist attacks of 9/11. Task Force Dagger was a gathering of exceptional individuals brought together with the purpose of conducting critical special operations missions in Afghanistan.

Task Force Dagger's primary objective was to extend support to the Northern Alliance commanders, collaborating with them to overthrow the oppressive Taliban regime. At this event, we will shine a spotlight on the involvement of our local Air Force and feature the renowned **US ARMY Green Berets ODA 595**, famously known as "The Horse Soldiers of Afghanistan." The activities of ODA 595 were the impetus behind the movie "Twelve Strong".

Featuring guest speakers, Lt. Gen. Marshall "Brad" Webb, USAF, Ret., [former AFSOC Commander and Commander of Air Education and Training Command]; Colonel Kurt Buller, USAF, Ret. [formerly of USAF Special Ops], the CEO of Intrepid Leadership Group; and Colonel Alison Black, USAF [the 'Angel of Death'], Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field. This event is a unique opportunity to honor our heroes and pay tribute to their exceptional courage and sacrifice in the pursuit of justice and freedom. Join us for an evening of admiration, insight, and a heartfelt toast to these extraordinary individuals who played a crucial role in shaping history.

Individual tickets are \$75 each and can be obtained from the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce (see flyer below). For more information, the Chamber's contact is Rachelle Graves, (850) 244-8191 or Rachelle@FWBChamber.com.



Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce

FEATURED SPEAKERS
GENERAL MARSHALL 'BRAD' WEBB
COL. ALLISON BLACK
COL. KURT BULLER, USAF (RETIRED)



★ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 5:30 PM ★

NORTHWEST FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS

TICKETS: \$75 GENERAL ADMISSION

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Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot



Sustaining the Scholarship Fund into the future; Educational Support Grant awarded to Niceville AFJROTC

One of the obligations that I and my Scholarship Fund Board of Directors have is to request and raise funds to sustain Scholarship Program. A major sustaining fund-raising effort each year is to reach out to our fellow NWFMOA members and spouses through the Century Club, and you have come through for us. We most sincerely thank those of you have donated in this way. And, we always welcome new donors (like **Christine Hallion** this month).

Another way to support and sustain the Scholarship Fund is to include a donation to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc., in your estate planning (like **Lt. Col. Jim Heavener** and others have done). Any designated funds from your estate upon death will pass to the Scholarship Fund tax-free, i.e., no income taxes due by either your surviving heirs or by the Scholarship Fund as we are an IRS Chapter 501c(3) tax exempt non-profit organization. Our Federal ID Number is 59-3434498. If you would like to support the Scholarship Fund with this method, please provide this information to your estate attorney or financial planner. If more info is needed, please contact Dave Parisot at (850) 613-6545. We will have local JROTC cadets graduating every year and entering college ROTC programs in the future. Let's ensure we have NWFMOA Scholarships available to help them get their commissions in our Armed Services.

In 2021, we initiated our **Educational Support Grant (ESG) program** in which we provide a grant of up to \$500 per year to each of the seven high school JROTC units we support. These grants must be used for educational purposes for projects which are not funded by either the School District or the JROTC units military service. In August we awarded an ESG of \$500 to the Niceville AFJROTC to purchase a 3-D printer. This printer will allow the Rocket Team to design, print, build, launch, and recover cadet designed multi-stage rockets for many years at far reduced costs, both for cadet training and in competitions. This is the third ESG grant we have awarded.

Recent donations to the BG Frank Glunn Century Club were made by **Dan Brown, Christine Hallion** (new donor), **Kevin Kirby, Dick Solt**, and **Dave Parisot** (In memory of Col. Charles 'Skip' Harrington and Col. Bill Byerley). Thank you to each of you for helping to sustain our Scholarship Program.

The 50/50 raffle for the Scholarship Fund at our August 3rd luncheon meeting resulted in ticket sales of \$116.00. The winner was **Mike Griffith** who graciously donated his winnings of \$58 back to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks, Mike, and 'Thank you' to all who bought raffle tickets.

Below is the complete list of our **Endowed Scholarships**, our **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation) and our **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months, along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. All of these donations are used to fund our scholarships. [Note: (D) means deceased and (R) means Renewal of membership.]

Endowed Scholarships: **Lt Col Jim and Mrs Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship** (D) (via their estate effective 2018); **Dave Parisot** in memory of his wife, Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot) (effective 2017); **Dr (Lt Col, USAF, Ret.) Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship** (effective 2022); and, **Dr. (Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.) Fred and Mrs. Jan Westfall Scholarship** (effective 2023).

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen**, (D) (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (D) (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard & Irene Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred & Jan Westfall** (Apr 2018); **Clyde Locke** (D) (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (D) (July 2018); **Dennis Phillips** (Aug 2018); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (Oct 2018); **Carol Baker** (Jan 2019); **Ann Adelsperger** (Feb 2019); **Don Litke** (Aug 2019); **Fred Boyer** (D) (Aug 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** (Apr 2021); **Scott & Janet Berry** (May 2021); **Douglas Hardin** (D) (Sept 2021); **Patrick Boab** (Dec. 2021); **Bob Allen** (Feb 2022); **Bobbi Hanson Garcia** (Mar 2022); **Joy Houck** (Mar 2022); **George Colton** (May 2022); **Bob Secrest** (May 2022); **Brig. Gen Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks** (Oct 2022); **Les Matheson** (Feb 2023); and **Dan Brown** (April 2023). [Note: 39 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): Sept 2022: **Bob Gramm** (R); Oct 2022: **Brig. Gen. Fran & Mrs. Connie Hendricks** (R); **Doug Hardin** (R) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk); Nov. 2022: **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Pete Peterzen** (R); **Brig. Gen. Patrick Boab** (R); Dec. 2022: **Maj. Gen. Don Litke** (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); **Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (R) (In memory of Brig. Gen. George “Bud” Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Chong Cha Parisot); **Dr. Keith & Elizabeth Kulow** (R); **Larry Tashlik** (R); **Jeff Watson** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Col. Doug Hardin); **Fred & Jan Westfall** (R); **Les Matheson** (R); **Janet Ryan Taylor** (R) (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); January 2023: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Col. Don Panzenhagen); February 2023: **Reddoch Williams** (R); March 2023: **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Rod Gerdes** (R); and **Les Matheson** (R); April 2023: **Dennis Phillips** (R); **Dan Brown** (R) (In memory of Col. Don Panzenhagen); **Al Bills** (R); **Larry Bush** (R); May 2023: **Chris Beam** (R); **Bob Secrest** (R); and, **Dr. Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher** (R); June 2023: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Maj. Bill Van Hoesen); August 2023: **Dan Brown** (R); **Christine Hallion**; **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Dick Solt** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Col. ‘Skip’ Harrington and Col. Bill Byerley).

2023 Business Platinum Donors: (\$1,000+): Dec. 2022: **Bass, Byrd & Associates at Merrill Lynch of FWB (R); Florida Power & Light**



2022/2023 Business Gold Donors (\$500 - \$749): Dec. 2022: **Eglin Federal Credit Union (R); Step One Automotive Group (R); Residence Inn & Suites by Marriott of FWB (In-kind) (R); TownePlace Suites by Marriott of FWB (In-kind) (R); David Scott Lee (Crestview) Buick/GMC (In-kind) (R).**

2022/2023 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): Dec 2022: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind); Rocky Bayou Golf Club (In-kind); Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind); International House of Pancakes (IHOP) of FWB (In-kind);**

2022/2023 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): Dec 2022: **Buffalo's Reef of FWB (in-kind) (R); Mary's Kitchen of FWB (in-kind) (R); Painting With a Twist of FWB (in-kind) (R); Repeat Street Thrift Store of FWB (R) (in-kind); Tammy's Journeys of FWB (In-kind) (R); Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen of FWB (In-kind) (R); Samuel's Roadhouse of Crestview (In-kind) (R); The Shack Waterfront Restaurant & Marina of FWB; Conexion Newspaper of Navarre; Lisa Jo Spencer, P.A. of Mary Esther.**

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

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund

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To make a contribution to our scholarship program, click the link below.

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Dave Parisot, President, 56 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

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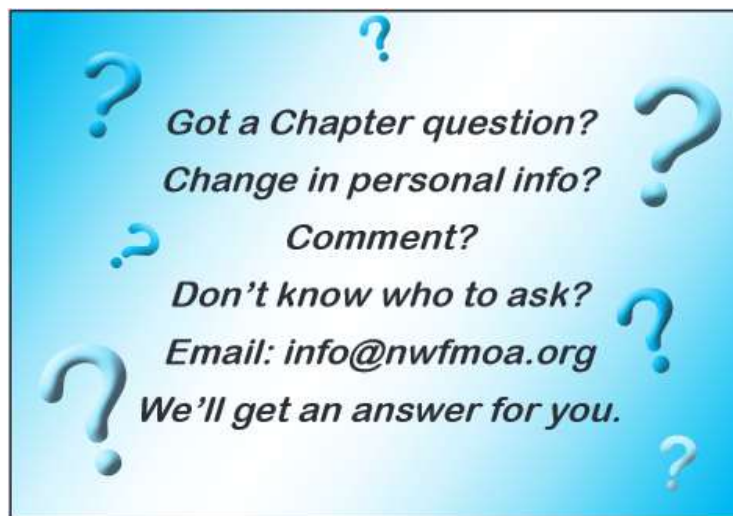
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AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social cultural, professional and service activities that extend for the local to national levels.

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Make Checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn. Inc. Check here is you do not want your name, phone number, or email address listed in the 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

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Membership Renewal
1 yr--\$25.00, 2 yr--\$48.00, 3 yr--\$65.00

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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
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The information you provide helps us keep in touch with you and is ONLY used by the NWFMOA

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