

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING

7/6/2023

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The July 6th meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. He asked Chaplain Ray Alexander to lead us in prayer. He then called Chris Beam to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After opening remarks, Fran relayed several important national events that happened on July 6 and the names of important individuals who had birthdays on this day.

Fran asked for members to introduce their guests. Jim Schoff introduced Col Mike Marion and Dick Solt introduced his wife, his daughter and her friend. Pat Johnson reported on the health of Bill Byerley. Jim Schoff also announced that the NWFMOA now has a Facebook page and encouraged members to visit it.

Following lunch, Fran introduced our guest speaker, Bernard Johnson, FPL's regional external affairs manager serving Okaloosa and Walton counties and surrounding areas. He started his presentation by sharing a story about starting a fire in his home as a child and thanked the military for not allowing his father to return home from Vietnam to be with them. If he had been allowed to return, Bernard said he would not be here today. He then took questions from the audience on various topics including the structure and functioning of the FPL power grid in the Panhandle, the structure, use and contribution of solar farms in the area, the impact of electric vehicles on the power grid and how FPL uses solar energy in our electrical grid. Following his presentation Fran presented Mr. Johnson with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

Fran then provided updates on several chapter activities. He congratulated Dick Solt for the success of our last Officers Call and announced that our next Call will be on November 30. Dick suggested that we need more involvement from our wives at the Officer Calls and that we are looking for a new venue. Fran also said that we have 15 new members so far this year and that our membership is now at 209. He announced that the Daughters of the American Revolution had asked for our assistance in finding Vietnam veterans for the DAR's November 18th event honoring them.

Jon Morris announced to the group of the upcoming golf tournament to benefit One Hopeful Place. Fran then announced that there was no winner for the July Defender Quiz. Nick Marotta got the question correct but was not present to win. The answer to the question: "What year and what airplane was the first military fighter" was the 1907 Wright Flyer-Military version.

Dave Parisot then conducted the 50/50 raffle. Bernard Johnson picked the winning ticket which belonged to Gene Mitchell. He received \$54 with the remaining \$54 going to the Scholarship Fund.

Attendance for the meeting was 39 and it adjourned at 1315.

//signed//

FRED WESTFALL, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary
NWFMOA Chapter FL 19

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Member