

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
11/2/2023

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The November 2nd meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1202. Chaplain Tom Azar provided the invocation. He then asked Larry Bush to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After opening remarks, Fran relayed several important national events that happened in November including the birthday of the US Marine Corps on November 10, and on other events that happened on November 2nd. Fran then read the names of the three members who have birthdays in November and reminded the group that as a member benefit, a free meal awaits those who have a birthday during the month of our meeting. He then introduced our visitors and guests, including Colonel Bob Black, guest of Elvira Chiccerelli, and new members, John and Joan Wambough. Just prior to lunch and in honor of their birth month, Fran led the group in singing the Marines Hymn.

Following lunch, Fran introduced our guest speaker, Brigadier General Patt Maney, US Army (Retired), our Florida District 4 State Representative and fellow NWFMOA member. General Maney began by thanking the group for their service to our country and relayed what Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) meant to him and his family. He then presented a detailed list of accomplishments during his latest tenure in Florida politics, stating that his priorities have always to help the residents of the Florida Panhandle. Stating that he had been able, with the help of others, to return over 42 million dollars to our area. He then discussed some history of the Florida Legislature and concluded his formal remarks with what would be happening in the upcoming special session of the legislature next week. He ended his presentation by answering questions from the members. Fran then presented General Maney with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

Fran called for a vote on our new bylaws. A motion to accept them was made and seconded and passed by those present. Fran then called on Karl Eschmann to present the slate of officers for 2024. After the slate was presented, Fran asked the members to vote. The slate for 2024 was passed unanimously. Fran then reviewed upcoming dates with significant NWFMOA involvement. On Sunday the Daughters of the American Revolution will host an event to honor those serving during the Vietnam War where several of our members will speak. The Veterans Stand Down event will be November 8th where we will distribute over \$2,800 worth of clothing to local veterans. Later this month we will distribute 300 Commissary Gift Cards (worth \$7,500) to families of E-4's and below at our local bases. Fran then advised the group that our next Officers Call will be on November 30th at Doc's Oyster Bar in Niceville and that our annual Military Ball will be on December 14. Dave Parisot announced the 2024 officers of the Scholarship Fund and then explained that if so inclined, members should consider using their 2023 Required Minimum Distribution as a tax-free donation to the Scholarship Fund. Fran then announced that OPUS ONE will once again entertain us at our December lunch meeting

Fran then announced that there were 6 eligible members for the November Defender Quiz drawing. The winning ticket selected by General Maney was Michael Griffith (again). The answer to the question: "Although it was later replaced with a Bronze Star, Annie G. Fox became the first woman in the U.S. military to receive a Purple Heart for her actions in which engagement?" was Pearl Harbor. As there was no other business to conduct, Fran adjourned the meeting at 1315.

Attendance for the meeting was 51.

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

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Member