



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 30 No 6

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

June 2024

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thursday 6 June 2024
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: **Steve Snow, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) – Air Force One.**

MAKE A RESERVATION

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

Reservation deadline is Saturday at noon prior to meeting. Go to <http://nwfmoa.org> and select the link “Click here to make reservations”, or email nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075 to make a reservation.

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THE NWFMOA JUNE MEETING WILL FEATURE STEVE SNOW



Please make your reservations to join us for our June NWFMOA lunch at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. Our featured speaker will be **Steve Snow, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)**. Steve grew up in Salt Lake City, UT, and after graduation went on a church mission to New Zealand. Following that he attended Brigham Young University and was commissioned through their ROTC program in 1974. He attended Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1975-1976 and then flew T-38 and EC/KC/RC/VC-135s. During his military career he served in SAC, PACAF and MAC. Upon being selected for special duty he was assigned to the 89th Military Airlift Wing at Andrews AFB and flew the VC-137 and VC-25 for Air Force One and Air Force Two during the Regan, Bush and Clinton administrations. After he retired in 1996 he flew Boeing 747, 757 767 and was a simulator instructor for the United Parcel Service (UPS). He moved permanently to Niceville in 2021 and joined the NWFMOA in 2023.

Our **JUNE 6th** lunch will start with a social gathering at 1130 with lunch to be served at 1200. To make reservations click [HERE](#) or go to the [NWFMOA webpage](#) and select the [Online Reservations](#) link. You may also call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075 or email him at nwfreservations@gmail.com. **Reservations must be made by no later than JUNE 1st.**

From the President's Pen

By Fran Hendricks



Lead, Follow, or Get the Hell Out of the Way

There is absolutely no place for antisemitism and “death to America and Israel” chants in the United States I revere. As a former university president, I am concerned with what is happening at some of our colleges and universities. I am concerned that some of my former colleagues have surrendered their positions of trust and leadership to the threat of being cancelled...*Heavy is the head that wears the crown.* If they believe in antisemitism and the destruction of America, or they are not strong enough to stand up and fight against it, then it’s time for them to resign. Being a college president is a huge responsibility and it is not for the weak-kneed.

Families send their children to college with the intent to get an education that will prepare them for their chosen profession. While there, they can expect their children will meet individuals from vastly different backgrounds and experiences. This is the part of the college experience that prepares them for the world beyond what they have been exposed to thus far in their young lives. This is where a greater view of the world is formed, and you learn to navigate discourse. This is the true college experience.

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting individually with each JROTC cadet who applied for one of our scholarships after their interviews with the scholarship board. We talked about what to expect during their first year in college...everything from classes to student activities. And how important it is to get the full college experience without falling prey to going along with the crowd to fit in. To have the courage to say no when everyone else is saying yes. We talked about the military that awaits them upon their commissioning and their role as future leaders. I bluntly reminded them that being an ROTC cadet indicates a desire to serve in the military as an officer and that career opportunity could be lost if they didn’t recognize when it is time to leave or dissent when things get stupid or challenge your moral compass.

Without any reservation, I can report each of the cadets is ready for the rigors of college and the unique requirements of ROTC. I am confident these cadets will rise to the occasion and do what is right when faced with the challenges that await each of them. They are ready for take their next step towards preparing to lead the one percent who commit to defending our liberty and freedom.

College presidents facing unrest on their campuses would be well served to embrace the core values of their respective ROTC units and the leadership example of their cadets. It’s time for all college presidents to lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way.

Here to Serve (H2S),

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired
President, NWFMOA

We cordially invite you to join us
in celebrating our 65th year of
Service to our Community

1959 - 2024



How can you join our celebration?

If you donate you will to be placed on the marquee (above)
and listed in the *Defender* for up to **12 months**

Individuals...minimum \$25

Businesses...minimum \$50

Each donor will also receive a commemorative, numbered RMO!



Click here to donate to our
65th Anniversary Celebration

Below is an example of the banner. Click it to see it on our webpage.



Donors so far include:

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- Chris Beam
- Bob and Karen Gramm
- Kevin Kirby and Victoria Hansen
- Chris and Richard Hallion
- Fred Westfall
- Dave Parisot
- Fran Hendricks
- Hopefully, many more

Click on the link above to donate and get your name on the banner.

Test Your Knowledge

Take the quiz for a chance to win a free lunch at our next meeting. ←

This month the quiz is about some important military history. 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 at the next meeting). 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 one winning entry from the hat.

There was no drawing last month so we will have 2 drawings at the June lunch.

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

Time To Pay Your Dues

It is time to pay your 2024 dues. Please make a check for the amount payable for the next year or beyond.

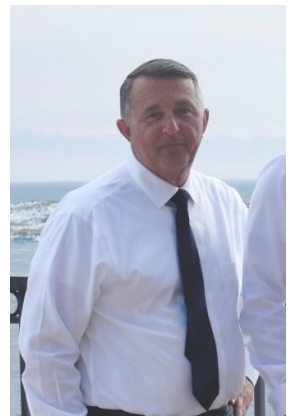
- Not sure if you owe dues? Click **[HERE](#)**. If your MOAA ID is listed, you owe dues.
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- If you owe dues, click **[HERE](#)** to fill form and send it along with your check to
Treasurer, PO Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579.
- You can also now pay your dues by **credit card**. To do that, click **[HERE](#)**.

Bill Hunter
Treasurer

Never Stop Serving

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Ray Alexander



THE RESURRECTION

Jesus taught about himself in John 10:18, he said, “No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.” This is a very simple and straight forward statement is proven in the events of Jesus life.

Jesus focus in life began rather early and continued throughout his life, death and resurrection. I believe he grew in his understanding of his purpose and relationship with God, Luke 2:41-52.

His life was surrendered and dedicated to do the will of God. He purposed his life to do this very thing. We first see this in the Temple story above. Next in his baptism where his mission begins as the obedient son. This baptism as obedience is confirmed by God’s voice and presence. The Holy Spirit then leads him out into the desert for 40 days where the temptation challenges reveal his character and clearly his understanding of God in the Scriptures.

Jesus purpose was to be the Savior of the world. It was accomplished through obedience to the Father, even unto death (Phil. 2:8, Rom. 5:18). He came preaching and teaching that the Kingdom of God was at hand. This was confirmed by God with the many signs and wonders that followed him. His disciples, for approximately 3 ½ years, would hear and see all he said and did. Their faith and understanding would grow such that they would be the witnesses of the resurrection.

He was resigned to the fact that his life was surrendered for obedience to God. He himself gave his life willingly to be that way. This is something very important that we need to do. No matter how popular or unpopular, we are to be willingly obedient and do his will.

Consider this; Jesus teaching and miracles brought him great fame and also many enemies. So much fame that people believing in him wanted to make him king. The enemies sought to kill him. In these cases, he did not allow either to happen because “It was not his time.” He was not to be the king who drove out the Romans like most believed. He was not to be killed by the hands of an angry mob.

The time of his obedience came after the betraying of a disciple. Later that night he did not allow his disciples to use violence to save his life. A beautiful window is opened for us to see the agony of death he faced and the love it has for all in this prayer of a true leader, the second Adam. His death would come after his high priestly prayer for us. It came after the agony and the struggle for life in his Garden of Gethsemane prayers recorded in John 17. He clearly shows us his struggle and the self-surrendering of his life to the purpose and plan of God. He laid down his life voluntarily to pay the price of sin.

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.

?
? Got a Chapter question?
? Change in personal info?
? Comment?
? Don't know who to ask?
? Email: info@nwfmoa.org
? We'll get an answer for you.
?

Officers Call

Our next officers call will be on May 30 starting at 1700,
[Doc's Oyster Bar, 303 Glen Ave, Valparaiso, FL](#)
(behind the Compass Rose).



PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

CV Miller, Col, USAF (Ret) 3/7/2024

Phil Krajeck, Former Capt, 4/30/2024

New Members

Carmen A Reynolds, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)



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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.



Never Stop Serving

**If You Belong to the NWFMOA, You ARE
Part Of The Solution**

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The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

[Click to read the FCoC Communiqué](#)

Mascot of the Month

This feature will showcase one member with their special friend. This month features Shadow, the lucky owner of Bob Allen pictured here hanging out at Shadow's house in Crestview.



SHADOW was my unit's call sign in Vietnam, and since we flew in the black of night it was appropriate that we had a large, black dog as a mascot. Years later, and long after my wife and I located in Crestview I went into a place of business and saw a little ball of black fur runny around the place. When I admired the pup its owner told me that if I wanted it it was mine. I got approval from my bride and we brought another pup to our abode. Of course, I called her SHADOW thanks to her being black and a promise that she would grow!

Well, when we saw this little hunk of black fur running around a rescue establishment, and as soon as we decided to adopt him, my stepson, Rand Bundy, said that his name just had to be SHADOW! There is the origin and reason for his name!

Please submit a picture of you and your special friend by sending an email to defender@nwfmoa.org.

Member Spotlight

Karl Eschmann, Col, USAF (Ret)

Karl Eschmann graduated from Texas A&M University in 1971 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering, and a Master's Degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology in Logistics Management in 1977. Every job he had in the military was important and required effort to accomplish. As an Aircraft Maintenance officer, he was responsible for the production of safe and reliable aircraft in war and in training. As a Second Lieutenant he was a flight line maintenance officer responsible for a squadron of F-4E Phantom IIs during the Linebacker I & II Vietnam War air offensives, as well as the Cambodian and Laotian campaigns. Later he worked in the Air Logistics Centers involved in the Depot level overhauls of fighters and bombers. The rest of his career he was in the Engineering and Program Management as part of the weapon acquisition world. He was the senior integration engineer for the AGM-86B Air Launched Cruise Missile which was integrated onto the B-52 and B-1 fleets. He was the Program Element Monitor at the Pentagon responsible for bringing in the then new E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Reconnaissance System (JSTARS) in time for Desert Storm (this was the platform that saw the Iraqis leaving Kuwait City resulting in the "Highway of Death"). He was the Special Projects Manager in the AIM-120 AMRAAM Office responsible for the major phased upgrades and improvements to the air-to-air missile system. His last AF assignment was as Director of International E-3 AWACS and Deputy Director for the US AWACS Program. His program team was tasked with the constant updating of the fleets to maintain interoperability between all the world wide E-3 fleets so that they can fight together in coalition warfare. He was a Graduate of Squadron Officers School, a Distinguished Graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, a Graduate of the Air War College, and a Distinguished Graduate of the Naval War College. He retired as a Full Colonel in 1998.



He wrote a book titled "Linebacker: The Untold Story of the Air Raids Over North Vietnam" which was published by Random House Ivey Books in 1989. It was intended to fully describe the planning and execution of the Linebacker campaigns, document the supreme sacrifices of the American warfighters involved in pushing back the North Vietnamese invasion of the South, and provide a summary of the lessons learned for future war planning for air campaigns. This paid off later for the Desert Storm effort, as many aircrews, combat planners and strategists used the book throughout the Iraqi air war to avoid the pitfalls of some faulty tactics that were discovered in Vietnam. He wrote several articles and has co-authored another book, all related to the Vietnam Air War. He is currently involved in trying to publish a book about the American Revolutionary War Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775. He has presented many briefings and speeches related to Vietnam and the American Revolution to a number of different organizations and schools to educate the public on these subjects that are rarely taught these days our school system.

Since 1997, he was an Air Force Support Contractor before his final retirement in January 2020. For 14 years of that time, he was responsible as the team lead for a number of tasks at Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB FL involved in the testing and experimentation of Command and Control Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C2ISR) programs and capabilities. This included a multitude of systems used in the Air Operations Centers, Air Support Operations Centers (AOCs), Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) ground combat control teams, E-3 AWACS, E-8 Joint STARS, Predator/Reaper/Global Hawk Unmanned Air Vehicles, U-2 sensors and ground stations, NORAD Air Defense Radars and Centers, and the architectures of data links between air, ground and space C2ISR nodes. In addition, for over four years, he worked on specific areas related to improving the means to counter and defeat the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) using airpower applications through surveillance, detection or attack means. The CIED efforts required his deployment to the AOC in Al Udeid AB, Qatar in 2007, resulting in new ISR tasking processes to support and protect ground units in Iraq from IED attacks. Testing and development of Tactics, Techniques and

Procedures for two persistent ISR air and ground station capabilities in the war theater (Angelfire and MC-12W Liberty) required him to deploy to Al Anbar province in Iraq (Fallujah and Al Asad) with the Marines in 2008, and Baghdad and Balad AB, Iraq in 2009. US Forces were able to find and neutralize hundreds of enemy IED cell members, and effectively reduce US casualties and pacifying most of Iraq (until our rapid departure in 2011).

From 2011 through early 2020, he was working as a Small Diameter Bomb (SDB) II Program Office Engineer responsible for developing the SDB II Concepts of Employment documents and processes for the weapon and airborne platforms. He was the primary team leader for all SDB II/Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) mission integration requirements (all operational JTAC kits in services) and provided Subject Matter Expertise support for all Full Motion Video platforms used for JTAC targeting sources during SDB II testing missions against moving targets on the Eglin and Dugway Proving Ground bomb ranges. He often flew as a crew member on the Cessna Caravan 208 aircraft equipped with the targeting sensors.

The point of all this is that his entire successful 26-year career in the Air Force was kick-started in a remote, dirty jungle war that wasn't even supported by a large percentage of the American public. In this environment, he was a young 23 year old Lieutenant was responsible for 70 troops averaging about 19 years of age and had to learn how to master the art of motivating diverse groups of people to perform to their maximum limits and beyond. Now, as a 74 year old, the young troops and veterans alike in his most recent organizations were still just as eager to listen to advice that doesn't change with time or type of equipment. Only the faces change, not the basic human elements. By witnessing first hand some of the impacts of war (both in Vietnam and SWA), he committed himself and any team that he worked with to provide the best possible systems to our warfighters to increase their chances for survival and safety on the battlefield. As witnessed lately, the dedicated efforts of a relatively few number of Americans supporting the defense of this nation resulted in the demise of our Cold War opponents and the emergence of the US as the only real super-power on the planet for many years. He was proud to have been a part of all that, and strived to keep us in that position.

Since he became a veteran in 1998, he took on the challenges of immersing himself in the local military and veteran communities and has had far reaching effects. Most of the organizations he belongs to are primarily composed of retired military or veterans, so everything he is active in has an impact on our local veterans.

That is what the US military is all about. Our military has one central responsibility, and it performs that superbly – to protect the security of our nation. Our military personnel typically average about 180 days a year deployed from home and are serving in 100 countries around the world. Thousands of our finest sons and daughters are standing watch because they find pride and satisfaction in preserving our freedom, as Americans have done for the past 250 years. And let's not forget those many Americans that did not get to come home when they lost their lives in defense of America. He knew some very good people who didn't make it out of Southeast Asia, people who would have become well known citizens if they had survived. He thinks of them often and made his commitments to always do his best in their places so that their sacrifices would have some meaning and purpose. That includes telling the stories of our patriots from the 1770s through today.

So there it is...He has been a few places, done a few things. But quite honestly, his is a really typical story. This country is full of people who simply do their jobs with a sense of purpose to insure that no one is allowed to take away our basic right to live freely and take care of their families. The other unsung heroes of America are the spouses of the people in uniform. They support their spouse in uniform day after day, with long periods of family separations in the process. That is one of the unfortunate aspects of a military career, but one understood by generations of spouses who undergo this sacrifice.

To View more pictures of Karl, click [HERE](#).

Community Outreach

Military Family Appreciation Day (April 20, 2024)



For the second year we were an active participant in the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce's Military Family Appreciation Day. The event was again held at the Fort Walton Beach Landing. This year we decided to engage the military families with cornhole and invited them to sink a bag for a chance to win a gift card to Zaxby's. The FWB Chamber was instrumental in making our introduction to the owners of Zaxby's. After they were informed of all our community outreach initiatives, they quickly said yes to being our partner and provided 10 gift cards to their restaurant to give away. We had over 200 families toss bags for a chance to win a gift card. We had a drawing every 30 minutes starting at noon and ending at 4:30. NWFMOA members manning our booth included Jeff Watson, Fred Westfall, Dave Parisot, Jin Shoff, Bob Gramm, Dick Solt, Bob Secrest, Rod Gerdes, Tom Azar, and Fran Hendricks. In addition to hosting the game, we shared how NWFMOA has served the community for 65 years. We received many compliments, thank you's, and several individuals expressed interest in joining the chapter. Since that day, Zaxby's has gone on our Banner and has stated they are ready to join forces with us again.

Additional pictures from the event can be seen [HERE](#).

NWFMOA President Fran Hendricks helps a youngster perfect her corn hole style.



Valparaiso's Day In The Park (April 27, 2024)

Fellow NWFMOA Member Marian McBryde dressed as Rosie the Riveter during Val-P's Day in the Park Celebration. Marian has filled this role for years.



NWFMOA Scholarship Fund Awards \$39,500 in Scholarships to Local JROTC and ROTC Cadets (May 2, 2024)

The Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (NWFMOA) held its 10th annual Scholarship & Awards Luncheon on May 2nd at the Fort Walton Yacht Club, attended by 124 JROTC and ROTC cadets, parents, instructors, business and scholarship sponsors, and NWFMOA members. Primary 'guests of honor' were ten Junior ROTC cadets of six local high schools who were awarded college scholarships and two local ROTC cadets entering their junior and senior years of college. Also honored were seven local JROTC cadets in their junior year of high school who received the MOAA Medal (Military Officers Association of America), and three cadets of the Navarre H.S. Navy JROTC who received appointments to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Our program was opened with an Invocation by our NWFMOA Chaplain, **Ray Alexander**, Presentation of the Colors by Army JROTC cadets of Crestview H.S., and singing of our National Anthem by JROTC Cadet **Angelina Romano** of Fort Walton Beach H.S. Following the lunch, we opened our program with recognition of JROTC cadets who were awarded the MOAA Medal.

The MOAA Medal recognizes leadership and academic achievements of ROTC and JROTC cadets. It is presented to specially-selected junior year students who are participating in ROTC or JROTC programs throughout our country and who exhibit high potential for military leadership. This award reflects the cadet's superior accomplishments and support of his or her High School Junior ROTC program, high academic achievements, and service to school and community. This award further reflects the high regard of each school's JROTC instructors. Please see the included photo for this year's MOAA Medal awardees, their JROTC instructors, and their high school. The MOAA medalists are selected by each school's JROTC instructors.



Awardees of NWFMOA JROTC Scholarships for 2024: **Cadet Akadian Campbell**, \$3,000 (Baker School); **Cadet Franchesca Howard**, \$3,000 (Choctawhatchee H.S.); **Cadet Reese Sayer**, \$3,000 (Navarre H.S.); **Cadet Griffin Woodley**, \$3,000 (Niceville H.S.); **Cadet Jade Bradley**, \$3,000 (Fort Walton Beach H.S.); **Cadet Angelina Romano**, \$4,500 (Fort Walton Beach H.S.); **Cadet Jacob Bollenbach**, \$3,000 (Choctawhatchee H.S.); **Cadet Alexander Bollenbach** (Choctawhatchee H.S.); and **Cadet Victoria Beckworth**, \$3,000 (Baker School). Not pictured is **Cadet Lauren Bage**, \$3,000 (Choctawhatchee H.S.)

Next on the program was awarding of ten scholarships totaling \$31,500 to local high school JROTC cadets. Nine of the scholarships are for \$3,000 each and one at \$4,500. Awardees must be a local JROTC cadet, have high academic scores, have demonstrated leadership skills in their high school JROTC and school activities, and shown potential for a future commission in our armed forces, along with community service activities. Scholarship awardees must attend college full-time and enroll in their college ROTC program.

This year's ten JROTC Scholarship awardees are as follows: **Cadet Angelina Romano** of Fort Walton Beach H.S. received the "Lt. Col., USAF, Ret., James 'Jim' and Mrs. Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship" of \$4,500. Cadet Romano plans to attend the University of Florida and Air Force ROTC with a major in economics and continuing on to Law School with service with the Judge Advocate General.

Cadet Victoria Beckworth of Baker School received the “Dr. (Lt. Col., USAFR, Ret.), Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship” of \$3,000. Cadet Beckworth plans to attend college and Army ROTC at either the University of West Florida or Troy University with a major in nursing.

Cadet Griffin Woodley of Niceville H.S. received the “Dr. (Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.) Frederick and Mrs. Janet Westfall Scholarship” of \$3,000. Griffin plans to attend the University of West Florida and Air Force ROTC with a major in professional flight.

Cadet Jason Bollenbach of Choctawhatchee H.S. was awarded the “Colonel Karl, USAF, Ret., and Mrs. Charlotte Eschmann Scholarship” of \$3,000. Cadet Bollenbach plans to attend the University of Florida and Air Force ROTC with a major in mechanical engineering.

Cadet Reese Sayer of Navarre H.S. received the “Mrs. Chong (Kim) Parisot Memorial Scholarship” of \$3,000. Cadet Sayer plans to attend the University of Florida and Navy ROTC with a major in mechanical engineering.

Cadet Jade Bradley of Fort Walton Beach H.S. was awarded the “Colonel William ‘Bil’ Byerley, USAF, Ret., Memorial Scholarship of \$3,000. Cadet Bradley plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio and Air Force ROTC with a major in kinesiology.

Cadet Alexander Bollenbach of Choctawhatchee H.S. was awarded the “Colonel Hampton, USAF, Ret, and Mrs. Nancy Kenaston Memorial Scholarship” of \$3,000. Cadet Bollenbach plans to attend the University of West Florida and Air Force ROTC with a major in mechanical engineering.

Cadet Akadian Campbell of Baker School received the “Major William ‘Bill’ Van Hoesen, USA, Ret., Memorial Scholarship” of \$3,000. Cadet Campbell plans to attend Auburn University and Army ROTC with a major in mechanical engineering.

Cadet Franchesca Howard of Choctawhatchee H.S. was awarded the “Colonel Troy Dent, USAF, Ret., Memorial Scholarship” of \$3,000. Cadet Howard plans to attend college and Air Force ROTC at the University of West Florida with a major in sports management.

Our final JROTC scholarship was awarded to **Cadet Lauren Bage** of Choctawhatchee H.S. Lauren was awarded the “Colonel Melvin Bryant, USAF, Ret. Memorial Scholarship” of \$3,000. She plans to attend the University of South Florida and Air Force ROTC with a major in biomedical science with her goal of becoming a medical doctor.

Following the JROTC scholarship presentations, we presented two scholarships of \$4,000 each to two local ROTC cadets. The first one went to **Air Force ROTC Cadet Jeffrey Tavarez** who will be a senior at Embry Riddle University with a major in aerospace and occupational safety. Jeffrey is a 2021 graduate of Choctawhatchee H.S. and JROTC.

Our second ROTC scholarship of \$4,000 was awarded to **Air Force ROTC Cadet Logan Herron**, a junior at the University of Florida with a major in astrophysics. Logan is a 2022 graduate of Navarre H.S. and JROTC. Logan was taking final exams and was unable to attend.

Next on our luncheon agenda was to recognize and congratulate local high school graduates who have received appointments to any our national military academies. This year we honored three

academy appointees. All were of the Navarre H.S Navy JROTC and all will be attending the **United States Military Academy at West Point**. The three West Point appointees are **Brenner Mavity**, the son of Graham and Shawn Mavity; **Gennaro Smith**, the son of Christopher and Maria Smith; and, **Jesse Lee**, the son of Gary and Nina Lee.

To conclude our 2024 NWFMOA Scholarship & Awards Luncheon, we introduced five of our previous scholarship awardees who are being commissioned as second lieutenants in the US Army and US Air Force this year. Having our previous scholarship awardees receive a military commission is the primary way we measure the success of our scholarship programs. Of the 18 scholarships we paid out since 2015 who have been in college long enough to complete ROTC, 12 awardees (65%) will have been commissioned by the end of 2024. This follows the motto of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund: *"HELPING TO BUILD FUTURE MILITARY OFFICERS AND LEADERS"*

Kayla McCarthy, a 2020 graduate of Navarre H.S. and Navy JROTC, was commissioned a 2Lt in the U.S. Air Force on May 8th. She is a 2024 graduate of the University of South Florida and Air Force ROTC. She will report to Columbus Air Force Base, MS, for pilot training.

Anthony Rodas, a 2020 graduate of Crestview H.S. and Army JROTC, was commissioned a 2LT in the U.S. Army on May 3rd. 2LT Rodas is a 2024 graduate of the University of West Florida and its Army ROTC. He will be going into Air Defense Artillery.

Kathrynn Dunn, a 2021 graduate of Crestview H.S. and Army JROTC, was also commissioned a 2LT in the U.S. Army Reserves on May 3rd. 2LT Dunn is a 2024 graduate of the University of West Florida and its Army ROTC. She will attend the Army Military Intelligence training at Fort Huachuca, AZ, this summer. Afterwards, she plans to attend Law School and join the Army's Staff Judge Advocate program.

Two additional previous JROTC scholarship awardees will be commissioned in the U.S. Army this year. **Army ROTC Cadet Sean Ripley** of Blinn University, TX, will be commissioned a second lieutenant via ROTC at Texas A&M University. Ripley is a 2020 graduate of Niceville H.S. and Air Force JROTC. **Army ROTC Cadet Naomi Barr Whitlock** is a 2022 graduate of **Crestview H.S. and Army JROTC**. She attends Army ROTC at Marion Military Institute, AL. She is participating in the Army's early commissioning program and will be commissioned a second lieutenant this summer prior to finishing her final two years of college to get her Bachelor's degree. Neither Cadets Ripley nor Whitlock were able to attend due to testing.

Our program was closed with a Benediction by **Chaplain Ray Alexander** and a rousing group singing of "God Bless America" lead by NWFMOA Chapter member **Al Stearns**.

To view all the pictures taken at the Awards Ceremony, click [HERE](#).

Pictures of our members (May 2024)



Photo of NWFMOA President Fran Hendricks emceeding the AFA Scholarship Awards Reception at the AF Armament Museum in May. Fran also serves as the Eglin AFA Education Foundation Vice President for Scholarships. AFA awarded 6 scholarships totaling \$30,000 to local JROTC and ROTC Cadets.

Never Stop Serving



Photo of Les Matheson making an award presentation at Niceville High School.



Photo of member B/Gen Patt Maney presenting award at the Fort Walton Beach High School.

A Day at the Derby (May 4, 2024)

Pictured on right is NWFMOA member Jim Shoff at this year's Kentucky Derby with the trainer of the horse who won.



Never stop having fun.

Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

Scholarship Awards Luncheon; Recent Donations



This year's **Scholarship Awards Luncheon** was held on Thursday, **May 2nd**, at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. Please see my separate article in the Defender on this event. I want to say "**Thank You**" to our members and others who helped to make this a successful program: **Fred Westfall** for his photography services and 'behind the scenes' work to make the opening slide show and post multiple photos on our Scholarship Fund pages of our website; our luncheon 'check-in' people, **Dan Brown**, **George Hanks**, and **Les Matheson** (Checked in 124 people with most having assigned tables); **Kevin Kirby** for assisting me with unloading and getting the room ready, helping with the 'take-down' after the luncheon, and assisting with the 'big check' presentations; **Fran Hendricks** for his opening and closing comments; **Chaplain Ray Alexander** for his most fitting Invocation and Benediction tailored for this event; **Jeff Watson** for leading the Pledge of Allegiance and assisting with the scholarship presentations; the **Fort Walton Yacht Club staff** for their lunch preparation and service; Fort Walton Beach **AFJROTC Cadet Angelina Romano** for her rendition of our National Anthem; **Al Stearns** for his last second filling in to lead us in the singing of Kate Smith's rendition of "God Bless America"; the **Crestview H.S. Army JROTC Color Guard** members for a very snappy Presentation of the Colors; to the cadets who were awarded this year's MOAA Medals and scholarships; and to the **JROTC Instructors** who lead the seven JROTC units we support with scholarships, MOAA Medals, and Education Support Grants.

I also want to thank our scholarship presenters: **Dr. Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher**, **Lt. Col. Fred Westfall**, **Col. Karl and Mrs. Charlotte Eschmann**, **Mrs. Jeanne Reif**, **Brig. Gen. Fran Hendricks**, **Mrs. Linda Van Hoesen**, **Mrs. Kay Dent**, and **Mrs. Karen Sage**.

Recent recurring donations to the BG Frank Glunn Century Club were made by **Bob Secrest**, **Al Bills**, and **Dave Parisot** (in memory of **Phil Krajeck**). We have also received donations from local businesses. **Step One Automotive Group** renewed their Gold Business Sponsorship with a donation of \$500 and **Lisa Jo Spencer, PA**, renewed her Silver Business Sponsorship. We thank each of you for your financial support and our scholarship awardees will also appreciate your support.

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); **Dr.**

(Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.) Fred and Mrs. Jan Westfall Scholarship (effective 2023); and, **Col. (USAF, Ret.) Karl and Mrs. Charlotte Eschmann Scholarship** (effective 2024).

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 & Elizabeth 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 & Mosla 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); **Dan Brown** (April 2023); **Tess Bass** (August 2023); **Bob Gramm** (Dec 2023); and **Larry Tashlik** (Dec 2023) [Note: 42 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): **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); **Tess Bass (R); October 2023: George Colton (R); November 2023: Pat Johnson; Pete Peterzen (R); Dave Parisot (R)**(In memory of Chong Parisot); **Keith & Elizabeth Kulow (R); Tess Bass (R); December 2023: Les Matheson (R); Jeff Watson (R)** (In memory of Maj. John Besten, USAF, Ret.); **Karl and Charlotte Eschmann (R); Bob Gramm (R); Brig. Gen. Fran & Connie Hendricks (R); Larry Tashlik (R); Kay Dent** (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Kettter); and, **Janet Ryan Taylor (R)** (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); **February 2024: Rod Gerdes (R); March 2024: Don Litke (R); Kevin Kirby (R); April 2024: Fred Westfall (R); Dennis Phillips (R); and Dr. Keith Kulow (R); May 2024: Bob Secrest (R); Al Bills (R); and Dave Parisot (R)** (In memory of Phil Krajeck)

2023 Business Platinum Donors: (\$1,000+): **Dec. 2023: Bass, Byrd & Associates at Merrill Lynch of FWB (R); March 2024: Florida Power & Light**



2022/2023 Business Gold Donors (\$500 - \$749): **April 2024: Eglin Federal Credit Union (R); GSS Gear FWB, LLC; May 2024: Step One Automotive Group (R)**

2024 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): **April 2024: Lisa Jo Spencer, PA (R).**

2024 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): awaiting donations.

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

**NWFMOA Scholarship Fund: “HELPING TO BUILD FUTURE
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Legislative Corner



This month's Legislative Corner is focused on improving Servicemembers Living Conditions and Quality of Life. I respectfully ask each of you to visit MOAA's Legislative Action Center and send the following message to our two Senators and Congressman which highlights what is needed to sustain an all-volunteer force. To assist MOAA in their role as our advocate and guardian of our benefits, they need to hear our collective voices. The more voices they hear, the more pressure they can exert on our elected officials. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Improve the Quality of Life of Our Servicemembers

Dear @legislator_greeting,

Since the end of the military draft in 1973, the all-volunteer force has protected our nation at home and abroad. But the uniformed services are struggling to recruit and retain the force they need to defend our country and support our allies when called upon. Reversing these worrying trends requires Congress to address quality of life challenges that impact recruiting and prevent parents from recommending national service to their children.

To help sustain the all-volunteer force, Congress can:

- Restore the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% of rental and utility costs, up from the current 95%, by passing the bipartisan BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537/S. 1823).
- Get back to the basics and enforce standards for safe barracks and housing, and require unit commanders to conduct annual inspections.
- Address the \$137 billion in deferred maintenance for neglected installations.
- Triage the barracks inventory to sustain functional barracks with operational HVAC systems and establish an aggressive demolition schedule for facilities with known mold and health hazards.

- Ensure operational air conditioning is available for all servicemembers in barracks/unaccompanied housing.
- Protect the health care benefit by reversing cuts to the TRICARE pharmacy network and resisting calls to shift health care costs to beneficiaries via TRICARE fee increases.
- Improve health care for our overstretched reserve component to support their medical readiness.
- Restore child care availability by doubling family child care providers via provider incentives.
- Support spouse employment by passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R. 1277/S. 596).
- Address out-of-pocket costs for PCS moves with an updated dislocation allowance.
- Improve community services, school quality, and morale, welfare, and recreation facilities with timely appropriations.

The all-volunteer force is one of our greatest national strategic advantages. Maintaining such a capability requires protecting the quality of life for our uniformed community. Thank you for your time and attention on this important matter; I urge you to work with your fellow lawmakers to support the all-volunteer force.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Member, NWFMOA

Surviving Spouse Corner

Chaplain Ray Alexander has created a number of excellent resources for Surviving Spouses and it is on our website. Be sure to check it out by clicking on the link below. Or visit our [website](#) and click on the Member area.

Click here for Surviving Spouse Information



The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

[Click to read the FCoC Communiqué](#)

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P.O. Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579

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.

Today's Date _____

 Last Name First Name Initial

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This application is for:

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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

Membership Application/ Renewal

New Members joining this year receive membership through December 31 next year for \$25.00

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

Life Membership Dues**

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

Surviving Spouses
Pay half of the above rates



Click on the form to fill out and pay by mail or credit card.



Important Things To Remember

What

What to Click

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Update your contact information	http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html
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Is Your Personal Information Up to Date?

If any of your vital information has changed, like if you've moved and have a new mailing address, or a new phone number or email address, please use the Update Your Information link on our NWFMOA website.

The link is http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html

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

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