

From Your NWFMOA President: An Invitation to Personally Tell/Ask Matt Gaetz about Issues Important to YOU

Matt Gaetz's staff is currently working on a strawman agenda in support of an Open Gaetz day in FWB on Saturday, 17 June. A priority for him at this event is to engage military (active and retired) members in the district. The Doolittle Institute (its past CEO, Steve Butler, has talked to us) is bringing the details together for this event probably because the institute's chief operations officer, Rob Kirila, is Matt's new Director of Military Affairs.

After several service organizations had pretty much filled all the seats, one of our newest chapter members whispered in my ear. The rest is history.

Rob called me soon after I sent him an email explaining who we are and where we stand in terms of veteran service organizations. We had a fairly long, honest, and cordial conversation.

Of course, his staff wants some agenda topics in advance. I have one for sure. I told Rob that Matt was the ONLY Florida representative who, according to his staffers, didn't have time to meet with a MOAA rep during our recent Stormin' the Hill in DC and that this embarrassed me after what I pumped up the Florida Council about Matt.

Here's the bottom line: we have thirty seats to fill for this event and it'd be great if we had more. The exact time on the 17th is still TBD. The location will be at the Doolittle Institute which is near Uptown Station. The event will start with a brief recognition of the Army's birthday (June 14th) followed by Matt's opening comments for 5-10 minutes and then the rest of the time for Q&A.

Help me out and let's fill the room. Email (swberry@cox.net) or call me (582-0839) with your name NO LATER THAN June 1st. Remember that your email address may not tell me who you are so include your first and last name. The first 30 respondents are guaranteed a seat. After that, I'll have a prioritized list if I'm able to get additional seats. Agenda topics can come later. Military only—no spouses (unless the spouse also has military experience).

I'd like a great turnout from our chapter. The rest is up to you.

Look forward hearing from you.

Scott Berry
Chapter President