



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 24 No. 04

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

APRIL 2018

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 5 April 2018
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
 Program to follow
Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Karen Englert
 Home Health Care Specialist

- Please:
- **MAKE A RESERVATION**
 - Wear a name tag
 - Bring proper change: \$13.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at www.nwfmoa.org and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at nwreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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Medical House Calls are Alive and Well

By Scott Berry

When was the last time your primary care manager, Dr Kildare, or Marcus Welby made a house call to check on you? Decades, you say? Hasn't happened to me since I was in fourth grade with acute appendicitis. (I still vividly remember riding in his car back to the hospital in a cream colored Lincoln Continental with suicide doors).

Home health care existed as early as the 1800's when physicians made house calls and midwives delivered babies. Although the concept is still the same, the services and faces have changed dramatically. While a doctor's visit is a thing of the past, there are options very close to that which I doubt many people are aware of or at least how much it costs (or doesn't cost). Our speaker in April will educate us on these options which translates to a less stressful recovery that can mostly occur in the privacy—and comfort—of our own homes.



Let's first define home health care. Home care is an excellent and cost-effective alternative to institutional care and providing patients a way to recover in the familiar surroundings of their own home. Under the direction of the patient's physician, home health care professionals provide many services and therapies specifically tailored to meet the patient's needs. Modern technology allows us to provide the same medical services in the privacy of the home that in the past were only available in the hospital setting.

Our speaker, Karen Englert, is a Senior Home Health Specialist with Kindred at Home (formerly Gentiva Health

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FINAL EDITION!

Unless someone steps up to volunteer

From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

With the exception of several brief cold spots, spring is here! The azaleas seem to be especially active with beautiful displays everywhere that I turn. And if I don't seem them, my allergies remind me they (and the oak trees) are there.



Scott Berry

Springtime has typically also been the time for increased opportunities/growth/activities. Our chapter, gratefully, is no exception. That are many events on our plate and I'd like to burn up some copy space to describe them. I don't view this as an exercise in composition but rather to motivate you to participate in some or all of these. Doing so will of course promote our exposure as a chapter and the good things we accomplish but it also won't hurt us personally to increase our activity level.

Next month is the annual Military Appreciation Day at the FWB Landing. As always, we need volunteers to man the booth under Dave Parisot's leadership. This is probably our best opportunity to personal communicate our mission to the general public and hopefully increase our membership. As even I've done this in the past and enjoy answering the wide range of questions by attendees there are no special skills required. A smile, warm handshake, and a pulse are all that are needed. I'm also glad to state that patriotism isn't completely dead as many people simply stop at the booth and thank us for our service.

May will bring our annual JROTC awards ceremony. While the scholarship committee has been busy for some time in vetting the applicants and selecting the winners, your role can be attending the monthly meeting to show your support for the military leaders of tomorrow.

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

LCDR Eileen Summitt 3/2/2018

wife of RADM James K. Summitt

June brings our annual state convention at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott from 1-3 June. As monthly meeting attendees have heard me state several times, this year's convention and location are especially noteworthy for all they have to offer. We're also getting a SUPER hotel rate to include days before/after the convention. I'd like to have some company from NWFMOA with me. The activities aside from the convention will also keep any spouse very happy and busy so there's something for everyone. See the flyer in your email Inbox.

The Billy Bowlegs is also in June. Some of its activities conflict with the convention but the parade won't which has been our primary contribution in the past. Our "krewe" has fun walking our "float" along the parade route and tossing candy to children. As with the Military Appreciation Day, we get positive comments from grateful citizens for our military service. The parade is in the evening and so the temperature is pleasant although bug spray is essential.

Finally, we always have opportunities for greater chapter involvement. Currently we have vacancies in three critical positions: First Vice-president, Personal Affairs, and Defender editor. Each of these makes important contributions to our chapter although none of them are very time-consuming. I've fumbled along in trying to satisfy the first two vacancies but could sure use some help. The lack of a Defender editor will be very apparent when you don't receive your May newsletter. The absence of a newsletter puts us on a very regrettable but entirely preventable downward slope. If any of these positions speak to you, please let me know. Or even if they don't but you have several hours available to help the chapter stay afloat, please do the same. We're at a critical point and I'm personally asking you to lend a hand.

So as to end this column on positive note, HAPPY EASTER!

Berry "OUT"

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NWFMOA Community Outreach



This year's annual **Military Family and Veterans Appreciation Day** will be held on Saturday, April 14th, from 11:00AM to 6:00PM at The Landing in Fort Walton Beach. This event is sponsored by the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce and ZT Motors of Fort Walton Beach. The purpose is to recognize and thank our many local military families, retirees, and veterans for their service to our country. The event is free to all with free food and entertainment. See the poster in this issue of the Defender for more details and event sponsors.

NWFMOA will have a booth at this Appreciation Day. We need six volunteers (two per shift) to man the booth for three 2-hour shifts: 11:00AM to 1:00PM; 1:00PM to 3:00PM; and 3:00PM to 5:00PM. Please contact Dave Parisot by phone [(850) 613-6545] or email [dparisot@cox.net] to volunteer.

In May we have **Mother's Day** on May 13th and **Memorial Day** on May 28th. Mark your calendars to attend one of the local Memorial Day services. Our chapter members who have passed in the past year will be read at the 11:00AM service at the Beal Cemetery in fort Walton Beach.

ZT MOTORS proudly presents
Fort Walton Beach
Military Family Appreciation Day
Saturday, April 14th 11 am - 6 pm
Special Event for all Military, Veterans and their Families at the FWB Landing
Activities Include:
Free Food & Drinks for All Military and Families
Free Children's Inflatable Fun Zone!
Veteran and Military Service Providers
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By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

EASTER PEOPLE

Lent for Christians culminates with Maundy Thursday, followed by Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter or Resurrection Sunday. It is the most spiritually existential season for sincere believers in God. We celebrate the meaningful mystery of what God did in the final days of Jesus as Savior, Christ and Lord.

On Thursday Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and instituted the Lord's Supper. Good Friday Jesus was tried, beaten and crucified as our sin-filled substitute. He cried out "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" This utterance has plagued humanity for centuries. Why is this the only time Jesus calls His Father "God?" The reason is God had to turn His back on His Son who was filled with every committed sin. God required justice—a debt paid for sins committed. This propitiation gives us forgiveness and a new life relationship with God.

Holy Saturday is the day the altar is covered in black symbolizing Jesus is dead in the tomb. However, on the Easter God miraculously raised Jesus from death and sin. He not only conquered physical death but spiritual death.

This magnificent mystery is comprehensible to the believing mind. Faith accepts God's unmerited favor or grace, so mercifully and freely bestowed on His lost children. This act of love is mercy in action.

2000 years ago a great rabbi named Saul persecuted and killed Christians. It was not until he encountered the risen Savior that his unbelieving heart was softened. Saul became Paul—one of the greatest Christian teachers, pastors and evangelizers whom God used to start the church throughout the entire Holy Roman Empire.

As I teach a weekly Bible study at the Air Force Enlisted village, one of the enjoyable challenges is that I am not teaching young airman in their 20s and 30; rather veterans who for 7-9 decades wrestled with living their faith through upheavals, war and personal suffering. They talk not from memorized texts but from the lived experience of relying on their evolving faith to make it through. Their faith is not hollow nor their practices merely ceremonial, but rich expressions of trust, patience, hope and love.

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Medical House Calls (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Services). Karen will walk us through the benefits of home care, how to get home health services, the criteria for home health (much broader than I thought), who pays for home health services (this will really surprise you), and an overview of clinical staff services.

Her medical experience started as an OR technician and she's been with Kindred at Home for 28 years. When she's not visiting with her four daughters, 9 grandchildren, or the driving the links with her husband in a golf cart, she hosts a radio talk show, Health Matters, and has been doing that twice a month since 2008.

Karen and the information she'll provide came recommended to me so I'm sure there'll be something of interest for any attendee. Make a reservation and we'll see you on April 5th!



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They are my teachers. They softly say "I don't know how people get through life and face death without believing in a gracious, guiding and merciful hand of their Heavenly Father." They show their scars from all that life threw at them and notably they have an inner peace about them. I hear it in the prayers and conversations and in my observances of them helping others work through their unexpected suffering. They are Easter People who didn't remain in the dark tomb but asked God in faith to roll away the stones of life. They have moved past the rites and rituals of their denominations and looked to the Scriptures and the saints and prophets to challenge their hearts and minds to be more fully who God wants them to be.

So may this Lent be more than a season of just talking or giving up food or a bad habit but a more proactive season of reflecting over what is the spiritual essence of a meaningful life of faith and working to live it out in the ways that matter eternally.

MOAA Presses Congress to Pass Veterans Health Care Reform

MOAA urged lawmakers to strike a bipartisan deal to replace VA Choice and consolidate existing community-care programs during a Wednesday joint House-Senate hearing on Capitol Hill.

A year has passed without an agreement in Congress to replace the VA Choice program, which allows some veterans to seek care closer to home. Competing bills addressing reform have languished on the Hill - one in the House and one in the Senate - and veterans are ready to see resolution, said Cmdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations for veterans and wounded warrior care.

"Veterans and their families sacrificed so much during their service," Campos told lawmakers. "To ask them to continue giving after service by funding their earned benefits or cannibalizing benefits to pay for another ... program is asking them to go above and beyond what we expect."

Rep. Tim Walz, Minnesota Democrat and retired Army sergeant major, and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., stressed the importance of hearing from VSOs as lawmakers consider new VA legislation. Congress takes direction from VSOs "every step of the way," Tester said.

MOAA was one of nine military and veterans service organizations to provide remarks during the hearing. In addition to community-care reform, MOAA also advocated for caregiver support, attention on women's health issues, and continued toxic-exposure research. Here's how Campos defined some of MOAA's top legislative priorities.

Reforming health care. Congress has never been closer to reconciling the differences in the community care bills: the Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017 in the Senate and the VA Care in the Community Act in the House.

MOAA and most other VSOs support the Senate version of the bill, which includes provisions to expand VA support and services for full-time caregivers and builds on VA Secretary David Shulkin's Community Access for Rewarding Experiences (CARE) proposal.

"We urge the committees to strike a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on legislation to enact community-care reform and ensure full funding for Veterans Health Administration resources," Campos said.

Expanding caregiver support. MOAA would like to see caregiver benefits extended to veterans who served prior

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Survey: Most MOAA Members Think Military Parade is a ‘Costly Distraction’

A majority of members of the Military Officers Association of America do not support President Trump's plan to hold a military parade, a new MOAA survey shows.

MOAA was wrapping up its survey just as a March 8 Pentagon memo released new planning details for the parade.

About 62 percent of respondents said they would not support the parade - under any circumstance. The most common reason? About 52 percent said it was a "costly distraction."

MOAA's survey is based on a call to action to the membership via email. Results became available Tuesday from a survey conducted earlier this month. MOAA received 7,525 responses.

Of those surveyed, about 27 percent said they supported a parade, conditionally. Based on reasons provided in the survey, about 13 percent would support a parade that served as “a national display of military might and dedicated servicemembers;” 9 percent would support a parade if it were tied to a significant victory; and 5 percent would support a parade to commemorate World War I and Veterans Day. Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. About 10 percent did not select from the reasons offered.

The Pentagon memo released last week details a parade planned on Veterans Day, in Washington, D.C. The parade will integrate with Washington's Veterans Day Parade, and its main goal will be to showcase military service through the years. There will be no tanks, but there will be wheeled vehicles (“consideration must be given to minimize damage to local infrastructure,” the memo notes). An official announcement has not been made at the time of this story release.

“This parade would cost a lot of money and our debt is getting out of hand,” wrote one retired Navy captain in their

survey response. Budget analysts have estimated the parade would cost between \$10 million and \$30 million.

The captain continued in his survey response, “veterans are well respected now - especially this all volunteer force. I think the 1-2% of our population that are in uniform are doing an awfully good job for the other 98% of us. They deserve our utmost respect, but big parades should be reserved for significant events. The government needs to do a cost/benefit analysis on things like this before embarking on annual parades.”

Not everyone who responded agreed.

“The military is a forgotten force,” wrote one respondent. “Americans go about their everyday activities and do not think about the selfless service and the power that our military consists of and portrays. A parade such as this will increase the pool of candidates interested in joining the military, and thus increase the quality point index of servicemen and -women, thus increasing readiness and effectiveness. Fantastic idea!”

A retired Air Force colonel also supported the parade, emphasizing its ability to reach the American public. “The military is not made of weapons but of the men and women trained in their use and willing to put their lives on the line to use them in defense of our nations values,” he wrote.

But when MOAA asked members to rate the best strategies for improving public perception of the military, parades were ranked lowest of all options provided. Airshows ranked the highest, followed by news coverage of military operations, and ceremonial military units. Advertisements and military bands ranked slightly lower (although were still considered slightly more than “somewhat useful”). Parades ranked slightly below “somewhat useful” in influencing Americans' perceptions of the military.

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.



Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

Applications from local JROTC cadets for this year's scholarships are due April 1st. Applications and Scholarship Policies and Procedures are on the Chapter website at www.NWFMOA.org. This is also good information for our members and scholarship fund donors to learn more information on how our scholarship program works.

We will be awarding our seven scholarships totaling \$16,000 at our May luncheon at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. I am working on a very patriotic program involving our local JROTC cadets. I hope you plan to attend to help recognize our future military leaders.

The 50/50 drawing at the March Chapter luncheon was won by **Kathy Bush**. Ticket sales were \$210 with \$105 each to Kathy and the Scholarship Fund. My thanks to all who bought tickets

Here is the complete list of **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation since 2015) and **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2017/2018 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets.

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018).

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: March 2017: **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **Rod Gerdes**; **Nick Marotta**; **Janet Taylor** (In honor of Bill Ryan); April 2017: **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Don Litke** (in memory of Kay Litke); **Bob Gramm**; **Scott Berry**. May 2017: WWII Vet **Bill Colgan** (Renewal); August 2017: WWII Vet **Sam Lombardo** (In memory of Jean Lombardo) (Renewal); **Dr. Roger Riggbach** (In memory of Janice Riggbach). September 2017: **Beryl Brenner** (In memory of George Brenner); October 2017: **Doug Hardin** (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2017: **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Jean Dutton** (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Renewal); **Karl Eschmann** (In memory of Col. Bud Day and Kay Litke) (Renewal);

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MOAA Presses Congress (cont.)

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to 9/11. The need for caregiver support is great among all generations, Campos said. She shared the story about one MOAA member named Peter, an 81-year-old blind veteran who's 100 percent disabled.

"Peter recognizes the toll caregiving is taking on his wife," Campos said. "He says, 'She's been my caregiver for over 20 years, and the burden is wearing on her but VA told me they don't have support services to help her.'"

Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said VSOs like MOAA help Congress "make decisions critical to VA."

"On blue-water Navy and caregiver [benefits], we got the message loud and clear and we are working on it," the committee chairman said. Blue-water Navy refers to the 90,000 servicemembers exposed to Agent Orange while operating off the coast of Vietnam.

Women's health needs. Roles for women in uniform continue to evolve, and Campos said the VA and Defense Department must prepare to serve their health needs.

MOAA recently teamed with United Health Foundation to study some of the health challenges facing female veterans. They found that women who served in the military were more likely to suffer from mental illness, cardiovascular disease, and other problems compared to female civilians.

Sen. Bill Cassidy, a Republican physician representing Louisiana, said he agrees. "Women have the privilege as men do to serve in some of these roles that were once just for men," he said. "Our VA should respond to that."

As part of this effort, Campos said MOAA recommends Congress pass the Deborah Sampson Act, which calls on the VA to carry out a three-year pilot program to assess peer-to-peer assistance for women leaving the military - especially for those who suffered sexual trauma or are at risk of becoming homeless.

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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.

Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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December 2017: **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (Renewal); **Dr. Keith Kulow** (In memory of Lt Col David Kulow); **Pete Peterzen** (Renewal); **Les Matheson, Dann Mittiza**:
January 2018: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal)(In memory of Mike Flynt); **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); and WWII Vet **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Janet Taylor** (Renewal) (In Honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (Renewal) (In memory of Janice Riggensch). February 2018: **Dick Prater** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Nick Marotta** (Renewal); **Dennis Phillips; Carol Baker** (Renewal) (In memory of David Baker); **Dave Parisot** (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot); March 2018: **Al Bills** (Renewal).

2017/2018 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): December 2017: **Gold's Gym of FWB** (In-kind).

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

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.: "Helping to build future military officers and leaders."

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$_____ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund (Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club).

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Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, and mail to: David Parisot, President; 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc is a 501c(3) corporation. Donations are tax exempt as provided by law.

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MOAA Presses Congress (cont.)

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Researching toxic exposures. Campos said Pentagon and VA officials must continue working together to study servicemembers' exposure to toxic materials in order to determine whether it's responsible for illnesses.

"It's unreasonable to require veterans to provide the scientific and medical evidence for their claim when that expertise resides within the government itself," Campos said.

MOAA would like to see investment in federal resource on servicemembers' exposure to hazardous toxins so health care benefits can be provided when appropriate.

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

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