



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 31 No 4

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

April 2025

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thursday **April 3rd**
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: **Guest Speaker**
Col. Frank L. Goldstein
(Retired)

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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GUEST SPEAKER COL. FRANK L. GOLDSTEIN



Frank L. Goldstein, Ph.D., DAPA, FACFE, Colonel USAF (Retired) is currently: the Medical Director, Behavioral Health and Resilience Okaloosa County EMS; Director, Emerald Coast Crisis Stress Team; member Florida Crisis Response Team; Senior Clinical Mental Health Specialist, Florida Disaster Medical Response Federal Team, and on the Board of Directors, Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps, FL-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team and the Air Force Armament Museum.

Dr. Goldstein is a psychologist at the Faculty of Northwest Florida State College Leadership Institute, Niceville, Florida, and the Graduate Faculty, Forensic and Legal Psychology, Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia. He is a noted author and speaker. He has published over 15 books, including his most recent book entitled, "Mass Shooters: Answers, Predictions and Solutions."

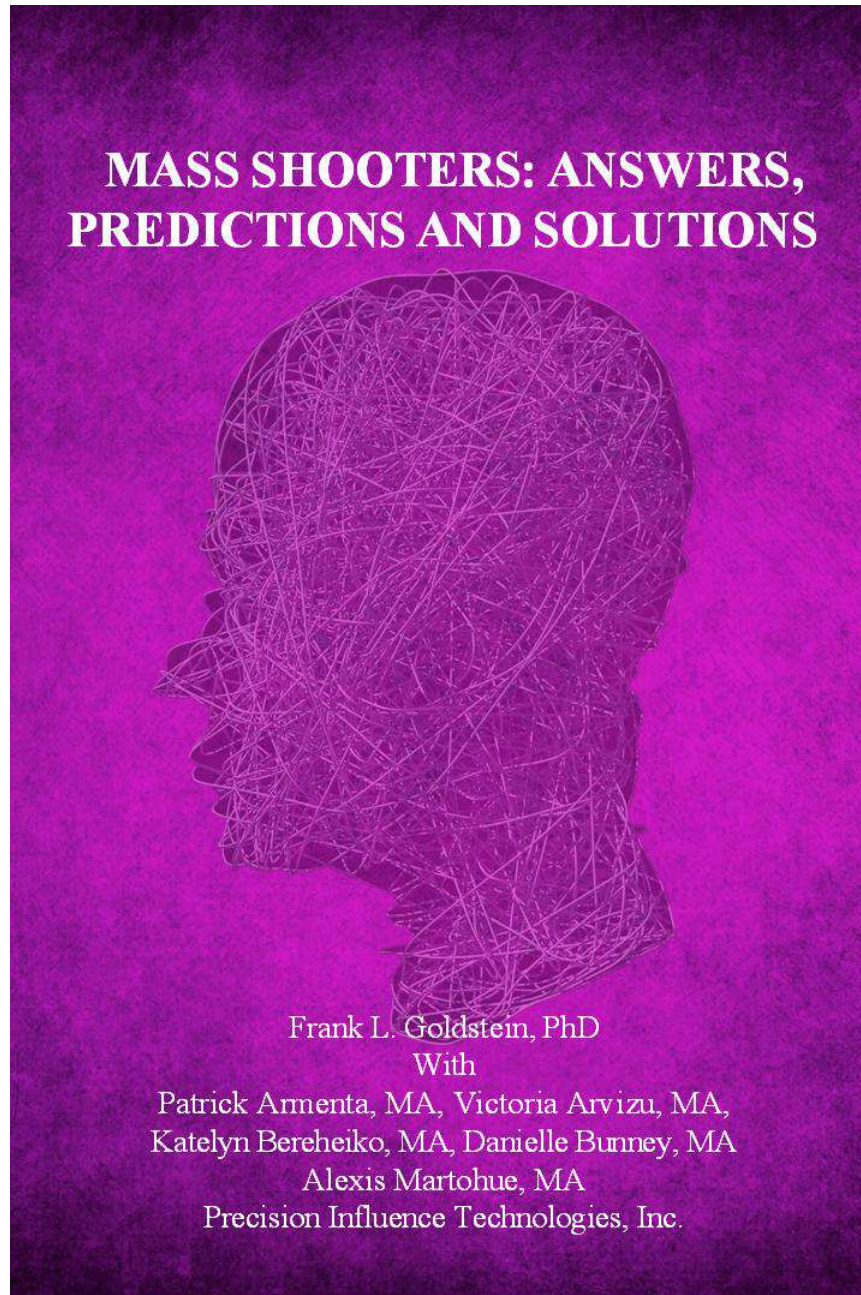
Dr. Goldstein specializes in stress management, resilience, post-traumatic stress health, psychological profiling and adversary information warfare.

Col/Dr. Goldstein began his 30-year active-duty career with a direct commission to the United States Air Force Biomedical Science Corp (BSC). His first duty station was Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB. He was the first BSC officer with the rank of Captain to take command of a standalone clinic at Wilford Hall. He was the first Director

of Behavioral Health on the faculty of Scott AFB, Family Medicine Residency. Col/Dr. Goldstein was the first BSC officer selected to attend Air Command and Staff College in residency. He was selected to an Air Staff tour after ACSC graduation to start the Air Force Family Support Center system. At the end of his Air Staff tour, he was selected to be the director of Psychological Operations at the USAF Special Operations School, Hurlburt Field. After two years, he was selected to join the new Special Operations

Command, J-9, Psychological Operations at MacDill AFB. At the end of his four-year tour, he was assigned as the Special Operations representative to the Secretary of the Air Force team writing the Gulf War Air Power Survey (Desert Shield/Storm). Col/Dr. Goldstein wrote in Volume IV, Weapons, Tactics and Training and Special Operations; specifically, special operations, CSAR operations, deception operations and psychological (PSYOP) operations.

Col/Dr. Goldstein was selected as the first non-line officer to be a Dean at Air Command and Staff College. He also served two years as the Director of Research at the USAF Air War College. He was then selected as the First Director of Psychological Operations at the Air Intelligence Agency and concluded his active-duty career in 2002 as the Director of Operation Location H for the Air Intelligence Agency at Hurlburt Field. Col/Dr. Goldstein's sixteen decorations, include two foreign decorations. After retirement, he served for ten years as the Senior Profiler for the Air Intelligence Agency.



Please join us for our April 3rd Membership Meeting. Click [HERE](#) to make reservations.

From the President's Pen

By Fran Hendricks



Officers & Directors

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TREASURER: Doug Stauffer:

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Karl Eschmann: phanfix@cox.net

Bob Gramm: bobgramm5@gmail.com

Kevin Kirby: shotgun0603@yahoo.com

Dick Solt: richdulce@aol.com

DEFENDER EDITOR

Elvira Chiccarelli:

nwf.defender@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Fred Westfall: nwfmoea@gmail.com

Heroes Abound

Do you know what is one of the great treasures of my daily life? It's being a member and current President of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (NWFMOA). The treasure comes in the form of being associated with a group of men and women who served our nation in uniform, during wartime and peacetime, all while making great family sacrifices. Each of you in my opinion is a hero.

Case in point. This past month (March luncheon meeting), we had a presentation regarding Operation Commando Saber (Misty) during the Vietnam War. This presentation was orchestrated by fellow NWFMOA members, Dan Brown (Misty 143) and George Hanks (Misty 49). Joining them were fellow Misty pilots, Guy Gruters (Misty 29) and Gib Ahl (Misty 100). Gib gave the presentation. It was outstanding. Each of us who heard the presentation left with a better understanding and appreciation of Misty, its pilots, and the contribution they made to the war effort. Talk about heroes!

Side note: While on a Misty flight, Guy was shot down and taken prisoner. He would remain a POW for over 5 years until freed at the end of the Vietnam War. Guy lives in Ohio, is a "snowbird", and chose to become a member of NWFMOA at the March meeting. Welcome aboard Guy Gruters and his beautiful bride Sandra!

On the day after our monthly luncheon, I had the distinct pleasure of visit with fellow NWFMOA members, Jake and Kathy Bush. Jake is 102 years old and is the Senior Elder of our chapter. As a young Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps, Jake flew the Berlin Airlift. It was a delightful visit. Kathy, Jake and I had a fabulous conversation across many subjects (Berlin Airlift, the birth of the USAF, how they met, and eventually married). I was once again in the presence of two heroes. Prior to leaving, I had the great honor to present each of them with their NWFMOA 65th Anniversary Commemorative Coin.

Both the Misty presentation and the conversation with Jake and Kathy are reflective of the richness of our chapter and its members. Each of you has a compelling story to tell. Each of you is a hero. I am always in awe when I learn something new about you. I encourage each of you to consider sharing some part of your military service with the chapter. These stories, your stories, are the living history of our military. By you, telling your story, we can capture your first-person, eyewitness account and share these stories with others, even after we are all called home.

As a NWFMOA member, it is my privilege to serve where heroes abound. I thank each of you for your service and the sacrifices you made. I also look forward to you sharing your story--NWFMOA has a treasure chest full of life experiences. Please consider sharing yours.

Here to Serve,

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired
President, NWFMOA

1959 - 2025



Thank You

for helping us celebrate over 66 years of
Service to our Community.

Watch for a new banner ad
on our website in 2025.

[Click HERE now to donate and get your name on the 2025 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.

Last month the winner was Mel Claxton but he was not in attendance.

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 2025 dues. And, if you haven't done so already, it is way past 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 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](#).
-

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar



Easter Reflections

My grandparents came to this country right before World War I. They began their journey at the US consulate and met with a staff member. To prepare for this major shift, they were given a booklet to read, paperwork to fill out and eventually several interviews. They did it the right way and arrived in Boston and opened a business. Their wise choice produced a family line of doctors, lawyers, university professors, departmental chairman, businessmen, to name a few.

When I was ready to go to college, I requested a catalog, read about the history of the school, the various departments and a myriad of subjects and well-respected academic professors. I was required to meet with a counselor to review my initial plan of study and major/minor subjects. I paid the required fees and bought lots of textbooks. We met regularly to re-evaluate my grades and course recommendations for the optimal approach.

When we wanted to buy a house, we went to the real estate office, and they gave us several booklets about their company, neighborhood schools, businesses and additional relevant demographics. We filled out paperwork, wrote lots of checks, met with lawyers, bankers, inspectors and neighborhood leadership. We followed the state's requirements.

When the Lord spoke to me about being a military chaplain, I was interviewed by 3 colonels. Yes, they wanted paperwork, to hear what my goals were and what vision and contributions I could contribute to the core and my country. One asked for my faith testimony.

Every base I served at, young man and woman who wanted to be married had to review the HC booklet if they desired a God-centered chapel wedding. It laid out the purpose of marriage; there was a 8 page questionnaire they were required to fill out.

After the initial interview, there was a pre-wedding course that they took for several months, and then it was up to the discretion of the chaplain whether they would officiate their union in the base chapel.

We were serious about marriage, and we knew the ramifications of those who were ill-prepared. (The majority of our counseling cases revealed the lack of preparation.) Eventually, they were taught God's purpose and given counseling tools that would hopefully provide for a successful and meaningful relationship for the spouses and their children. They had faith, knowledge and a mentor to guide their 'ships' before they left the harbor. Many believe the model of marriage as a horizontal reflection of our vertical relationship with God.

Now, if we make a paradigm shift from the worldly to the spiritual, and you want to have a long, extended, peaceful mind-frame, as we journey through this life into the next, it's important to learn about the author who created this vast universe. God formed us in our mother's womb, ordained our purpose, and offers us new life. The Bible provides guidance and examples for our daily living.

In order, to cross this final border into His 'Promised Land', one has to read the book, meet with local representatives-ministers and priests to learn about membership in the family of God.

We do it for all these earthly institutions that require a process, an interview, and a responsible commitment on our part.

However, many avoid this parallel approach. They don't take seriously their finitude, the afterlife or the Eternal Spirit.

Yes, there's a wall between earth and heaven, and God would love all of us to come live there. "He wants none to perish." It's as fluid as the above scenarios.

Maybe you live in a gated community; heaven is, definitely, a gated community!

What is true and legal for foreigners who want to become American citizens is true for those who want to be heavenly citizens. You cannot enter heaven illegally. St Luke's story of Lazarus and the Rich man clearly demonstrates who goes to heaven and who goes to hell.

Let's not play with fire. Remember we humans have a 100% mortality rate- that is no one gets out of this world alive. Remember our soul is eternal and lives on, some will retire in one of two locations. The choice is ours; not to choose, is making the 'worst' choice!

You just have to read the book and have an interview with his Son and have all your thoughts and motivations of the heart in the right place.

Officers Call

Thursday, May 29

At Doc's Oyster Bar 5-6:30 PM



PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

None 😊

New Members

None

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



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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.

Never Stop Serving

OUR MISSION

The mission of NWFMOA is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.



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https://bit.ly/moaa_newsletter



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Here is another option...

Looking for a NWFMOA Chapter shirt. In addition to ordering a shirt, you can also buy your own polo shirt (short or long sleeve) and take it to [American Athletic Uniforms, Inc](#) ([90 Eastview Ave, Valparaiso, FL](#)) to have it embroidered with our patch and your name. Cost of embroidery (Patch + Name) is \$15.



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**

[Click here to join the NWFMOA](#)



The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

[Click to read the FCoC Communiqué](#)

Community Outreach

By: Dave Parisot



JROTC Drill Competition

On March 1st, the Fort Walton Beach High School Air Force JROTC hosted a drill competition for four area high schools. The competition was held in the Commando hangar at Hurlburt Field. JROTC units competing were Air Force units from Niceville, Gulf Breeze, Pensacola, and Fort Walton Beach. The Northwest Florida Military Officers Association and our Scholarship Fund (via an Educational Support Grant of \$1,000) was a primary sponsor of this event. We had an information booth at the front of the hangar highlighting our scholarship programs and community outreach activities. Our sponsorship provided the lunch (burgers, hot dogs, chips, and beverage) for all attendees and also funded the many trophies for the various graded events (see photos below).

Chapter participants in our booth were Chapter President **Fran Hendricks, Fred Westfall, Kevin Kirby,** and Scholarship Fund President **Dave Parisot.** Westfall and Kirby sit on the Board of Directors for both the Chapter and Scholarship Fund. We were all impressed by the precision and symmetry displayed by the cadets in the various competition categories. At the competition, we were seeing the cadets at their 'peak performance' levels. We commented among ourselves about the massive hours of practice these JROTC cadets had to have expended to get to these performance levels. This is truly an example of their dedication to their various JROTC activities throughout the school year. Some of the scored events were Personnel/Uniform Inspections, Color Guard Performances, Freshmen Drill Team, Unarmed Drill Team, Armed Drill Team, Exhibition Drill, and Physical Training events including a 2-minute tire flip (it was a BIG tire!), 50 meter 5-gallon water carry, and a tug-of-war.

In a post-event e-mail I received from SMSgt Amber Burke, Aerospace Science Instructor for the FWB JROTC, she stated: "First, thank you ALL very much for an incredible day! With the donation provided by the NWFMOA I was able to cover the cost of all the trophies as well as lunch for all in attendance – over 160 people! Also, the booster club of the 8th Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron made lunch happen seamlessly!"

A few pictures of the event are shown below. For more pictures go to our website at www.nwfmoo.org under 'Community Outreach'. We look forward to next year's competition.



NWFMOA Scholarship Fund President Dave Pariset and Vice President Kevin Kirby man the booth at the Drill Competition. Also present was NWFMOA President Fran Hendricks.

Photos by Fred Westfall

[Click here to view all the pictures online.](#)



Trophy Table



Cadets of the Niceville JROTC compete in the Close Order Drill event.



Food is being prepared for the Cadets following their Drill Competition.

Funding by NWFMOA provided the lunches for over 160 attendees at the Drill Competition. The burgers and hot dogs were grilled by members of the 8th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Hurlburt.

FWB Chamber to Honor Vietnam Veterans

On April 28, 29, and 30, the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce will be hosting multiple events to recognize and honor our Vietnam era veterans. On **April 28 and 29** from 5:00PM - 8:00PM at the Air Force armament Museum, programs titles **“Honoring Our Heroes – Stories of Service & Voices of Valor”** will be presented. Local Air Force and Army veterans will share their experiences on key Vietnam conflict operations, including: Air commando Operations; Prisoners of War Experiences; Son Tay Rescue Mission; Interdiction of the Ho Chi Minh Trail; Evacuation of Saigon and Phnom Penh; and, Recovery of SS Mayaguez. These events will also have book signings and panel discussions featuring Vietnam-themed books by local authors: William Walters (Ghostriders 1968 -1975); Richard Barlow Adams (Song Be); Col. Ed Hubbard (Escape From the Box); and additional authors to be announced. These events are complimentary and open to all. For more information, contact Rachelle Graves via email at: info@fwbchamber.org. Use subject line of “Honoring Our Heroes”.

The main event of this 3-day program will occur on Wednesday, **April 30th**, from 5:00PM – 9:00PM at the Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds, 1319 Lewis Turner Blvd. This event, the **“Heroes Tribute Banquet – Honoring our Vietnam Veterans”** includes a buffet dinner. The program starts at 5:30PM. Please see the flyer on the next page for information on speakers and banquet costs. Tickets can be purchased through the FWB Chamber of Commerce at www.fwbchamber.org/events.



This April, join us as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War's conclusion with a heartfelt tribute to the men and women who served. Over three days, we will reflect on the war's impact, honor those who sacrificed, and share stories of courage and resilience.

SPONSORED BY:



FREE EVENT MONDAY, APRIL 28 & TUESDAY, APRIL 29

STORIES OF SERVICE
A REFLECTION ON VIETNAM

VOICES OF VALOR
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

AIR FORCE ARMAMENT MUSEUM
5-8PM

An immersive experience featuring book signings, panel discussions, and historical presentations.

MONDAY TUESDAY

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

HEROES' TRIBUTE BANQUET
HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

DESTIN-FWB FAIRGROUNDS
+ EVENT CENTER | 5-9PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROCKY BLEIER
Four-time Super Bowl running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Vietnam Veteran.

VERY SPECIAL GUEST
DALE DYE
Actor, Author, Military Film Consultant

FEATURED SPEAKER
COL. ED HUBBARD

BUFFET DINNER

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

*Our goal is to ensure that every local veteran who served during the Vietnam era has the opportunity to attend. Thanks to generous sponsors, we can assist those facing financial barriers in joining us for this special event.



Dual-hatted Kiwanis and NWFMOA members Larry Bush, Paul Singleton, Jon Morris and Fred Shor participate in the Annual Boy Scouts Pancake breakfast. This annual event raises funds for the local Boy Scouts Troop 544.

Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot



Our 2025 scholarship applications were due on March 1st. We received a total of ten applications from local JROTC cadets and one for our ROTC scholarship program. Applications were from six of our seven sponsored JROTC units as follows: Baker (Army)-1; Crestview (Army)-1; Choctawhatchee (Air Force)-1; Fort Walton Beach (Air Force)-1; Navarre (Navy)-3; and, Niceville (Air Force)-3. I will publish the cadet names in next month's Defender (May 2025) in the 'lead' article. Along with details on our Scholarship Luncheon to be held May 1st at the Fort Walton Yacht Club.

As I write this, your Scholarship Board members are scoring the written applications, and we will conduct in-person interviews with each cadet on March 19th at the Armament Museum. An indicator of the quality of this year's applicants is that eight of the ten have qualified for State of

Florida Bright Futures tuition scholarships based on their grade-point averages, ACT or SAT test scores, and community service hours. This year's JROTC scholarships will be awarded as 2-year scholarships of \$3,000 a year (\$6,000 total). The ROTC scholarship is for \$4,000 for one year.

Since my last article we have had some Chapter members and local businesses make donations to the Scholarship Fund as follows: **Brig. Gen. Fran and Mrs. Connie Hendricks, Dick Solt, Eglin Federal Credit Union** (increased donation from Business Gold to Business Platinum), and **Lisa Jo Spencer, PA, Attorney** (Business Silver). With Dick's latest donation, we welcome him to the **Gold Century Club** for attaining \$500 total donations.

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); **Lt.Col. (USAF, Ret.) Larry Bush** in memory of **Mrs. Joan Bush**.

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** (D) (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); **Larry Tashlik** (Dec 2023); **Jean Dutton** (D) (Oct 2024) and **Jeff Watson** (Oct 2024); **Dick Solt** (Mar 2025) [Note: 45 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): 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); **Bob Cluskey**; and **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Phil Krajeck); **George Colton** (R); August 2024: **Bob Cluskey** (R); **Scott & Janet Berry** (R); **Chuck Merkel** (R); and **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Eileen Arpke); October 2024: **Dave Parisot** (In memory of Jean Dutton); **Jeff Watson** (R); November 2024: **Kay Dent** (R); **Pete**

Peterzen (R); and Karl and Charlotte Eschmann (R); Fred and Jan Westfall (R); Bob Gramm (R); Howard Fisher (R); and Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Chong Parisot); January 2025: Dr. Keith and Elizabeth Kulow (R); Janet Taylor (R) (in honor of Bill Ryan).and, Dave Parisot (R)(in memory of Lydia O'Connor). February 2025: Rod Gerdes (R), Al Bills (R), and Dave Parisot (R) (in memory of Doris Day). March 2025: Dick Solt (R); Brig Gen Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks (R);

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



(Bass, Byrd, & Associates)



2024 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): May 2024: Eye M.D. of Niceville. LLC

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

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund: "HELPING TO BUILD FUTURE MILITARY OFFICERS AND LEADERS"

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**To make a contribution to the
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Legislative Corner



For the Legislative Minute at our March monthly meeting, I highlighted the need for Congress to pass legislation to shorten the unacceptably long wait Veterans exposed to toxic substances face when seeking service-earned VA care and benefits. Today, Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, and other toxic hazards wait an average of more than 34 years for the VA to officially recognize their service-connected illnesses.

While the PACT Act was a historic step forward in 2022, it did not fix this broken process for all Veterans. We must strongly recommend Congress enact legislation to bolster the legal framework for creating presumptive conditions. This framework must establish:

- Clear acknowledgment of toxic exposures.
- Formal concession of exposure tied to time and location of service.
- Scientific research to establish presumptive service connection for related illnesses.

This legal framework must also expand research, improve oversight, eliminate barriers to care, and create a modern classification system to better track exposures and presumptives. Veterans have waited long enough.

I invite you to visit the NWFMOA Webpage and hit the Take Action button. That will take you to the MOAA's Active Legislative Campaigns. There you will find all the legislative actions MOAA is working. With a few clicks, a letter voicing your support will be sent to our two Senators. Thank you for taking the time to make this happen.

H2S,

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired

President, NWFMOA

Update on Tricare

Click [HERE](#) to get information on TRICARE records.

Surviving Spouse Corner

Chaplains Ray Alexander and Tom Azar have 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
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SUNDAY WORSHIP
8 & 11A TRADITIONS
9:30A BLENDED
11:07A CONTEMPORARY

Shalimar
United Methodist Church
REACH | TEACH | SEND
shalimar-umc.org
850-651-0721
1 Old Ferry Rd. 32579



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Sunday Worship
Traditional @ 8:00 AM
Contemporary @ 10:45 AM



Click this link to fill out the renewal form
online. http://nwfmoa.org/files/join_us.pdf



Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc.
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

Spouse Phone

Address City State & Zip Code

Email Address

Rank Service MOAA Member Number

Regular Reserve National Guard Active Duty Retired

This application is for:

Life Member New Member Renewal Surviving Spouse Auxiliary Associate

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

Join Us Today

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




Important Things To Remember

What

What to Click

Make a reservation for our monthly luncheon.	http://nwfmoa.org/reservations.html
Update your contact information	http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html
Join NWFMOA	http://nwfmoa.org/files/join_us.pdf
Join MOAA	https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/
Send feedback or comments about the Defender	defender@nwfmoa.org



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

Go to http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html

And Remember...
Never Stop Serving



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