



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 21 No. 12 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services DECEMBER 2015

## Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Wed, 2 December 2015

**Time:** Open 0700; Bkst 0715  
Meeting 0800-0900

**Place:** The Meridian at Westwood  
1001 Mar Walt Dr., FWB

**Program:** Opus One

Please:

### • MAKE A RESERVATION

- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:  
\$8.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Call Bill Van Hoesen at 225-2957 or send an email to: bvanhoesen@cox.net if you are attending.

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## Niceville High School Opus One

Niceville High School's select vocal group Opus One will again be our guests for a December Holiday presentation at the Meridian at Westwood. Under the direction of Michael Dye, this group has gained renown as one of Okaloosa County's premier performing groups. We are especially privileged to have them create a holiday mood early in the Christmas season.

Over the years Opus One has performed not only in Northwest Florida, but around the world. Selected from the best voices of the Niceville High School Chorus, these talented students hone their singing skills to perform both with accompaniment, and *a capella*. Usually, every single member of Opus One is selected for All-County Chorus, and this year is no exception.

Join us on Wednesday, 2 December, at 0700, when Opus One presents excerpts from their upcoming Christmas Candlelight Concert\*, as well as other holiday standards. We know you won't want to miss it.



\*The Opus One Candlelight Concert will be presented at 6:30 pm on Thursday at the First Assembly of God Church in Valparaiso. Reservations are required for this event and the cost per person is \$25. Please contact the Chorus Dept. at 850-833-4262 to reserve your seat or for additional information.

# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

It's great to NOT be indispensable! And the last month has certainly reinforced that for me. When exiting Office Depot and minding my own business several weeks ago, I slipped on wet concrete, my feet went airborne, and my left fibula (that's the non-bearing bone in your leg below the knee) broke. Surgery followed but I'm now just wearing a boot, moving without crutches, and pretty much off the happy pills. Regrettably I'm forced to retire my favorite pair of neon-green Crocs as the absence of any tread on the soles was a major contributor to my accident. But everything turned out well as I knew it would and my thanks to Tom Godbold for standing in for me at the monthly meeting. I will have to ask your indulgence at the Annual Military Ball for wearing my black boot over the pant leg of my mess dress. I'd probably get sent to the grog ball if it was a dining-in/out.



**Scott Berry**

We're approaching the end of the year. From my perspective the chapter has made significant gains in a number of areas. The number of new members is the highest it's been in several years. We're also reaching out into the community and flying the MOAA flag in ways we rarely have done before. Attendance at monthly meetings has noticeably increased.

These are just a few examples. What pleases me even more is these accomplishments weren't one person's efforts.

Many people had their hand in making this all happen and I'm very grateful for that. My role as an area vice-president for the Florida Council of Chapters gives me insight as to what's going on across the state. I will tell you the most challenging issue facing almost every chapter is apathy. The progress I mention above and the number of people who have contributed to that progress communicate to me that we're winning the battle against apathy. Yes, we can always improve but I believe this year has been a turning point in that regard. My hope is it will continue for 2016.

One point which still concerns me is the lack of a 1st Vice-president for next year. That position typically handles the programs for the monthly meetings and so has an important role in chapter activity, attendance, and enthusiasm. I ask everyone to consider volunteering for this position. To quantify the workload, it takes about 4 hours a month. That ain't much time for a return of investment to meeting attendees. Please give that some thought.

Our program for December will be Opus One as it's been for many years. And, as usual, we'll be soliciting donations to offset their expenses so stuff your wallets/purses with some extra bills—hopefully 20s—for this event.

The board will continue to explore other meeting locations so I ask you to pay close attention to the Defender in the event of a location or time change. Hopefully, by the first part of next year we will have ops checked all the alternatives and made a decision on a permanent location. As always I welcome any comments you might have to help us make an informed decision.

Last but not least, my prayers and thoughts to all of you for a family-oriented and enjoyable Thanksgiving. The more I watch TV the more I realize how much I have to be grateful for.

Berry "OUT"

## PUBLIC RECORD

New Life Member

Wilbert Everhart, Lt Col, USAF

New Regular Member

Robert "Pete" Perterzen, Col, USAF

In Memorium

Thompson "Tom" Lindley, Lt Col, USAF (Ret),  
11/11/2015

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# MOAA Names Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins as New President and CEO

Alexandria, Va. -The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) announced its board of directors has unanimously selected retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, a distinguished military officer and seasoned private-sector business leader, as its new president and chief executive officer. The appointment is effective as of Jan. 4, 2016.

Atkins will succeed retired Navy Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan, who has led the association since 2002 and announced his retirement earlier in 2015.

In his new role at MOAA, Atkins will lead the more than 390,000 members of the nation's largest military service organization and fourth-largest veterans service organization in its advocacy mission on behalf of the entire uniformed services community.

Atkins has been the president of Chronicle Media, a large communications company providing print and digital media products in the Augusta, Ga., metro area, since his 2012 retirement from the Air Force.

"We are delighted to have someone with Lieutenant General Atkins' stature, leadership ability and business experience to assume the president and CEO position," said retired Air Force Gen. Tony Robertson, chairman of MOAA's board of directors. He continued, "A strong, top-quality career force requires compensation and a benefits package that is commensurate with the extraordinary demands and sacrifices imposed upon it. Dana brings a proven track record of strategic military and corporate leadership that makes him the absolute right choice to lead MOAA and our advocacy efforts into the future."

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, Atkins, a Portland, Ore., native, served as the commander of Alaskan Command, Alaska NORAD Region, Joint Task Force Alaska and 11th Air Force at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

During his career in the Air Force, Atkins served as a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in fighter aircraft, as vice commander of the 7th Air Force and U.S. Air Force Korea, as director of operations (J3) U.S. Pacific Command and as special assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe during the air war over

Serbia. During his career, he flew as a demonstration pilot for both the European A-10 demonstration team and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

Atkins earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Portland. He also holds two master's degrees, one in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and another in national security strategy from the National War College.



"I am honored by the confidence expressed in me by the MOAA board and to have the opportunity to continue serving the uniformed services, veterans and retirees and their families and surviving spouses," said Atkins. "I look forward to working with the MOAA team and its partners in a time of great challenges. I see this opportunity as a natural intersection where my experience and passion can best serve the membership of MOAA."

Atkins has taken an active role in his community, serving on the boards of directors for Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce, Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Alliance for Fort Gordon, United Way of CSRA, University Health Care System, American Red Cross of Augusta and Augusta Warrior Project and on the developmental board for the Air Force Enlisted Village.

He and his wife, Laura, were the 2004 recipients of the General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award, which recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple. Atkins and his wife have two children, a son who served in the Air Force and is currently a student at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a daughter who earned her doctorate in education and teaches in Washington state.

# NWFMOA Community Activities

## Col. Bud & Dorie Day Patriot Trail and Veterans Day by Dave Parisot

On October 29th the dedication of the completed Col. Bud & Dorie Day Patriot Trail was hosted by the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce. This walking trail honors the lives and service of the Days. Those who attended our 50th Anniversary luncheon on May 13th, 2015, may recall that Scott Berry announced that NWFMOA was donating \$500 for a paver from the Chapter to honor Colonel and Mrs. Day. Our paver has been installed at the base of the Patriot Trail's flagpole in the park-like area located on Ferry Road in Fort Walton Beach between Hughes and Smith Streets (site of the former Docie Bass Center). The pavers highlight four terms that reflect on Bud and Dorie's lives: Legend, Perseverance, Keep Faith, and Integrity. NWFMOA has sponsored the "LEGEND" pavers.



NWFMOA paver



Crestview VET parade

On November 11th NWFMOA showed our support of our military veterans and those still serving by participating in Veterans Day parades in Crestview at 9:00AM and in Mary Esther at 1:00PM with a "float" using Dave Parisot's SUV decorated patriotically with our NWFMOA 50th Anniversary banners, U.S. flags, POW/MIA flags, and the flags of each branch of our military services. Being in these parades and experiencing the response from the large crowds of people with applause, thank you's, and waves was very uplifting and reflects on the great support our community provides to the military.

Also on November 11th, many of our NWFMOA members participated in the many patriotic services in our area honoring Veterans. My wife and I attended the services at the Beal Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach where various local military associations and other groups and individuals decorated the base of the flag pole with a bouquet of flowers and flags. Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley, USAF, Ret. and former AFSOC Commander was the keynote speaker. Some of the NWFMOA members I noted at this service are Richard Secord, Patt Maney, Bill Ryan, Les Matheson, Bill Van Hoesen, Patrick O'Connor, Sam Lombardo (in uniform) and Mike Anderson. If you were there and I missed you, I apologize.



Mary Esther VET parade



Beal Cemetery  
flagpole with flowers



## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Merry Christmas to all. This is just a reminder that December is the last month of the current membership year. If you are not a Life Member or pay for multiple years please be sure that you have your 2016 dues mailed in by the end of the month.

Thank you for being a member for the past year.

## MOAA Top Gun, Again

The Hill, a Capitol Hill daily newspaper that covers public policy and political news, cited MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret.) for his defense of military members and families in its annual list of top association lobbyists.

The paper noted that Ryan “spent the last year fighting to preserve U.S. troop pay and benefits against budget cuts, a cause he’ll continue to champion in upcoming fiscal fights.”

“This recognition belongs to our 390,000+ members, MOAA Chapter and Council leaders, our Board of Directors and superb MOAA staff,” Ryan said. “We take seriously our motto to ‘Never Stop Serving’ our members and the entire military community including currently serving families, retirees, veterans, and survivors. Political leaders need to remember that our men and women in uniform are the only weapon system that has never let the nation down.”

Jeff Watson, Colonel (Ret.), USAF

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## Surviving Spouse Corner

### Scholarships for Career Development

**By Anne Hartline,  
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Scholarships and other financial aid are available to surviving spouses, military children, and veterans who wish to further their education. Before researching and applying for scholarships, grants, and other financial aid, it’s essential to assess skills and interests. Many local community colleges have career centers where professional staff will assist with surveys to measure skills and evaluate interests. Military children enrolled in a secondary school may contact their school guidance counselor or visit the school career center. Once a career path is developed, the pursuit of financial aid can begin.

If students are enrolled in a college or trade school, the best source for help is the school’s financial aid office. Prospective students also can contact the financial aid office of the institution they are interested in attending.

Many websites list sources of financial aid, eligibility requirements, and explain how to apply. The Education Assistance section of MOAA’s website gives information about the association’s scholarships, grants, and interest-free loan programs for military children under age 24.

The Federal Student Aid website contains a helpful glossary and information on financial aid for military members and their families. For example, scholarships are awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses and generally do not have to be repaid, while grants, which also do not need to be repaid, are based on financial need.

The VA’s website contains an Education and Training section that is helpful. The VA offers education benefits for veterans and their widows and dependents through the GI bill. Special grants that are not based on financial need also are available to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

The College Scholarships website is worth exploring for financial aid

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# Scholarship Program

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

Our annual major fund-raiser for the Scholarship Program at the Military Ball will soon be here. I want to thank the following members who have either contributed items for the raffles and auctions or have solicited donations from local businesses: George Colton, Karl and Charlotte Eschmann, Dave Parisot, and Sam Lombardo. Contributions of wine or spirits for the raffles have been received from Carol Schaefer, Tom Godbold, Dan Brown, Ann Marie Brown, Larry Bush, and Dave Parisot. To have successful raffles and auctions we need more donations and the help of our members. There is still time to help with donations. **Please contact Dave Parisot by phone or text [(850) 613-6545] or by e-mail [dparisot@cox.net] if you can help.**

All of the money raised by the raffles and auctions at the Military Ball on December 3rd goes to providing scholarships for local graduating senior JrROTC cadets. We currently award five scholarships totaling \$9,000. These fund-raisers are needed to sustain the Scholarship Fund. In keeping with our program of helping to build future military officers, our awardees must enroll in their college's ROTC program to receive their scholarships.

The NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a separate and distinct 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with its own officers and board of directors separate from the NWFMOA Chapter. If you would like to be a part of the NWFMOA Scholarship Committee or on the Scholarship Board of Directors for 2016, please contact Dave Parisot [(850) 613-6545 or [dparisot@cox.net](mailto:dparisot@cox.net)].

The winner of the 50/50 raffle of \$62 at the November luncheon was Dave Parisot who donated it back to the Scholarship Fund.

We have fourteen members who have made contributions in 2015 to the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club. In November we added a new Business Silver Donor by the Marriott Town Place Suites with an in-kind donation valued at \$258 and a Business Bronze donation of \$100 by Chris Beam of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. We also received a donation from Sam Lombardo in memory of his deceased wife. Here's the complete list of Century Club members for 2015 along with our Business Donors:

Continued on page 7

# Surviving Spouse Corner (cont.)

Continued from page 5

for technical schools. In addition to government grants, scholarships are available from organizations and education foundations that support specific career programs. This website also contains information on grants for women.

Other useful resources include:

- Fin Aid, which discusses financial aid for older nontraditional students;
- *U.S. Veterans Magazine*, which lists scholarships for servicemembers, spouses, and dependents;
- ScholarshipsAndGrants.us, which contains information on scholarships and grants for veterans; and
- Federal Student Aid, which contains information on scholarships for military families and grants for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Education is critical to almost every career, but financing that education can be a challenge. Education and career goals can be achieved, however, by obtaining scholarships, grants, and loans.

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# Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 6

## **2015 B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club Donors:** (\$100 minimum donation)

March 2015: Winfred Boyer; Mel Bryant; Dan Brown; Dave Parisot; Fred Westfall. April 2015: John Feldman; Eileen Arpke; Olive Clyde Locke; Larry Bush. May 2015: Samuel Lombardo. July 2015: Beryl Brenner. August 2015: Dr. Howard Fisher; Tom Churan. October 2015: Frederick Rall.

**2015 Business Gold Donors** (\$500 minimum donation):  
April 2015: Eglin Federal Credit Union; ZT Motors of Fort Walton Beach; Resort Quest Vacation Rentals; Michles & Booth Law Firm. May 2015: Wild Willy's Adventure Zone (In-kind).

## **2015 Business Silver Donor** (\$250 - \$499):

April 2015: Holiday Inn Resort (In-kind); November 2015: Marriott Town Place Suites (In-kind)

## **2015 Business Bronze Donor** (\$100 - \$249):

May 2015: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind); November 2015: Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

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).

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

☐ This gift is a memorial in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please inform the following of this gift:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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. Registration # CH20374. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services by calling toll free (800) 435-7352 within the State of Florida or via their website of [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



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***Email: [info@nwfmoe.org](mailto:info@nwfmoe.org)***

***We'll get an answer for you.***



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**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 from the local to national levels.

Last Name	First Name	Initial	Spouse
Address	City	State & Zip	Phone
Rank	Service	MOAA Mbr. No	Email Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired			

**This application is for:**

☐ Life Member ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Auxiliary ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**

#### Membership Renewal

1yr—\$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

#### Auxiliary Members

Pay half of the above rates