



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 27 No. 12 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services DECEMBER 2021

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 2 Dec 2021
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: OPUS ONE
Directed by Catherine Feazell

MAKE A RESERVATION

• RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:
\$14.00 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 Fred Westfall at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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Let's Party!!!

By Michael Griffith

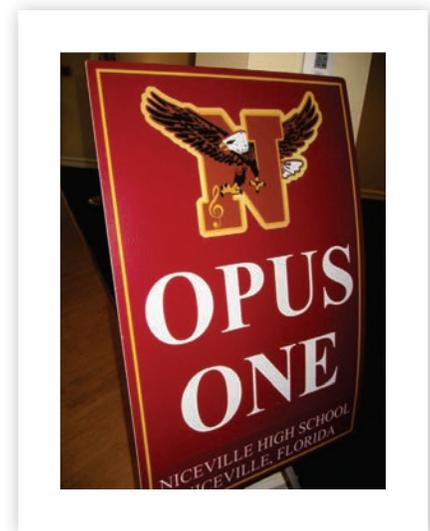
One of the coolest things about being an NWFMOA member this time of year is that we get to celebrate Christmas twice, even before we go home to celebrate it with our families.

We will begin the month of December by getting together at our regular monthly meeting to enjoy lunch and to sing along with Opus One, the Niceville High School choral group that traditionally entertains us with holiday songs each December.

Last year, they were unable to join us, because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, fortunately, the pandemic has subsided to the point where Opus One can once again perform in public, and they have agreed to perform for us.

Please don't forget that we will be taking up a collection during our December meeting to show our gratitude for the Niceville High School students who have taken the time to come out and entertain us.

A week later, we will once again get together to celebrate Christmas, when we have our annual Military Ball. This too is an event that we had to cancel last year, but is now once again reviving as a way of enjoying our friendship with one another, sharing memories and hopes for the future, and celebrating this most important time of year.



There will be food. There will be music. There will be dancing. There will be prizes. There will be toasts. I may even tell jokes. Don't miss it!

And by the way, if you are reading this article, you know the importance of the Defender as a way to share information among NWFMOA members. As our award-winning editor, Ken Zepp, is about to retire from the position, how about volunteering to take it over?

You won't have to do the job alone, but you will be helping your fellow officers, and living up to the MOAA motto: "Never stop serving."

From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

Christmas: The dark side, and the light

“Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.’” (Matthew 1; 16-18)

The story of King Herod's slaughter of the innocents is not a part of the Christmas story that anyone writes popular, sentimental songs about. You never see it on Christmas cards, or even hear it mentioned very often, except within the context of the overall story of Christmas.

Yet, it is an important part of the story, because it shows us the contrast between the kind of life Christmas offers us and the kind of fate we would all be doomed to if there were no such thing as Christmas.

King Herod was a victim of the most dangerous form of addiction ever known – the addiction to political power.

Herod should have realized that he was already an old, sick man, with no chance of living long enough for an infant boy to grow up and challenge him for his throne. Herod would be long gone by then. He should also have realized that if he believed the prophecies saying that this boy was anointed by



**Mike Griffith,
NWFMOA President**

God to rule Israel, that attempting to thwart the will of God was a fight that Herod could never win.

Herod, however, was not really thinking at all. The addiction to power had consumed his mind.

A person addicted to drugs or alcohol may destroy their own lives, and greatly damage the lives of their families and friends. If they get too much of what they're addicted to, they die.

A person addicted to power, especially if they get too much of it, can destroy not only themselves, but can destroy nations and exterminate entire populations. We all know examples of what power addiction can do. Just read a history book, or turn on the evening news, and see power addiction at work.

The one little boy who escaped Herod's maniacal power-hunger was the very child Herod had sought to kill. After spending the first part of his childhood in Egypt, as a refugee, the boy returned to Israel and grew up.

He never sat on any earthly throne or held any political office. He never led an army, amassed a fortune, wrote a bestseller, played in the Super Bowl, or became a rock star. Yet, he is the most famous and influential person who ever lived.

No one who ever walked the earth has had more power at his fingertips, or used it more gently. Jesus could have conquered nations, but he chose to feed multitudes. He could have killed any enemy, but he chose to heal. He could have oppressed his followers, but he chose to wash their feet.

2021 years later, we still celebrate his birth, and express our joy and gratitude that he has offered us the type of life that no earthly king could ever imagine.

In J.K. Rowling's novels, the fictional character Harry Potter is introduced as "the boy who lived." The real-life "boy who lived" was Jesus, who actually escaped a power-addicted evil overlord who meant to kill him. Jesus lives today, and because he does, we all have the hope of life eternal.

Merry Christmas to all, and a Happy New Year.

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members

Anthony (Tony) Holland, Lt Col, USAF/USMC (RET)
Nancy Prater, Surviving Spouse

In Memorium

None

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.

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

Have you noticed how many stores have advertised big on Halloween, skipped Veterans and Thanksgiving, and gone to a 'Happy Holiday?' Many pastor friends have echoed that "Christmas is on the endangered list." There is little interest or study of our Christian history, virtues and principles that made our world tenable and successful. Hence, here is the guiding root story that was accepted and lived out; we enjoy our many fruits and know not where they came from today. Our family tradition reads it together before we gather to share a meal and open gifts.

The Birth of Jesus the Christ

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all

these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Have a meaningful and blessed Christmas and Holy New Year.

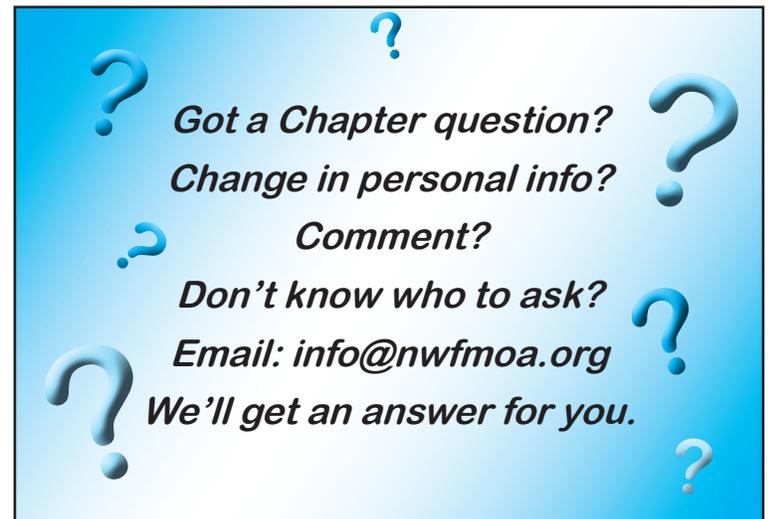
Dues Reminder

Hello my fellow NWF MOA members. 2021 is about to be history and our new year will be here. For many of you this means that your membership will be expiring and it is time to pay your dues for the New Year. If you are not sure when your membership expires look at the address label on this Defender.

On the back page of the Defender you can see how much it is to renew your membership for 1, 2 or 3 years. Our mailing address is also provided.

I encourage everyone to get their membership up to date as soon as possible.

Thank you. George Colton, Treasurer



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

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.

Major Pharmacy Provider Is Rejoining TRICARE

By: Karen Ruedisueli (Revised)

CVS will rejoin the TRICARE pharmacy network as of Dec. 15, while Walmart/Sam's Club will leave the network at the same time, Express Scripts officials told MOAA. With the change, military families will have access to the two largest chain drugstores in the U.S. – Walgreens and CVS – together with many smaller chains and independent pharmacies.

The change is part of the next generation TRICARE pharmacy contract. Given the preliminary information available, MOAA believes the quality of the TRICARE pharmacy program will be maintained with these network adjustments and even improved for many beneficiaries. We understand families who fill prescriptions at Walmart or Sam's Club will be inconvenienced, but others will be pleased to once again have CVS as an option for their prescription medications. With the robust number of CVS pharmacies, these network revisions will be a positive change for most military families.

Beneficiaries who get prescriptions filled at Walmart or Sam's Club will receive a letter notifying them of the change. The letter will include three local TRICARE network pharmacies they might consider using instead, together with suggestions on how to transfer prescriptions most easily to another retail pharmacy, home delivery, or a military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacy.

Families who fill prescriptions at Walmart or Sam's Club will need to move them to another TRICARE network pharmacy location by Dec. 15.

Beneficiaries who fill specialty medications at Walmart or Sam's Club will receive a letter and phone call from Express Scripts to assist in moving the prescription to another network specialty pharmacy. Due to the

Continued on page 6



Community Outreach

By: Dave Parisot

Veterans Day at Beale Cemetery; Educational Support Grants for JROTC Units

I noted many of our Chapter members attending the **Veterans Day** services at the Beale Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach. Lt Col Frank Roberts opened the service by reciting of the poem "In Flanders Field". Early that morning, prior to the service, the AFJROTC unit at Fort Walton Beach High School placed hundreds of flags on the graves of military veterans. The unit also provided the Honor Guard for presentation of the Colors at the service.



Beale Cemetery gravesite with U.S. flags at gravesites of Military Veterans.

The Scholarship Fund Board on Nov. 3rd adopted an **Educational Support Grant (ESG)** program to assist our seven local JROTC units. With this program, the senior Instructor of each unit can apply for a grant of up to \$500 per year to purchase educational items for their classes which are not funded by either the schools or the JROTC programs. Each application will be reviewed by our ESG Committee (Fran Hendricks, Fred Westfall, and Bob Allen) prior to approval. As part of the eligibility criteria, each commissioned officer or warrant officer must be a member of our Chapter. For more info, please visit the Scholarship Fund pages of our website at www.NWFMOA.org.



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Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot

The Scholarship Fund Board met on Nov. 3rd for our pre-Military Ball meeting to discuss the annual raffle. Also on the agenda was the scholarships to be awarded to local JROTC cadets in 2022. The Board agreed to increase each of the scholarships by \$500, i.e., from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and from \$4,000 to \$4,500 for the Heavener Scholarship. Thanks to the generosity of **Dr. Howard** and **Mrs. Irene Fisher**, we will be awarding an additional scholarship starting in 2022. Thank you Howard and Irene! Thus, in 2022, we will have eight scholarships available at \$3,000 each and one for \$4,500. This scholarship program is not possible without the generosity of our Chapter members and Business donors. THANK YOU!

We also created an Educational Support Grant program for our seven local JROTC units. (See article on Community Outreach).

Donations for Scholarship Fund raffle at 2021 Military Ball:

Our Military Ball is December 9th. We will greatly appreciate any donations for the Scholarship Fund raffle. Please bring to the November luncheon. Thank you to all who brought bottles of wine and spirits to our November meeting; special thanks to **Charlotte Eschmann** for her two excellent gift baskets.

The 50/50 raffle at the November luncheon was won by **Wayne Pulliam**. Ticket sales were \$120 with \$60 to Wayne. Since Wayne graciously donated half his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund, the Fund got \$90. My thanks to Wayne and all who purchased raffle tickets. Note: No raffle at our December luncheon; please be generous to our entertaining Opus One choral group.

Donations to the Scholarship Fund by members has picked up in November with Century Club donations by **Bob Gramm, Joe Stevens, Jesse & Kathy Bush, Fran Hendricks, Dan Brown, Mark Fluker, and Dave Parisot** (in memory of Dick Prater). We also received a check from **Lee Nissan** of FWB as a Bronze Business Donor. My sincere thanks to each of you.

Here is the complete list of **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation) and **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 JROTC scholarships. [Note: (R) means Renewal of membership.]

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 & Irene Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred Westfall** (Apr 2018); **Clyde Locke** (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (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** (Aug 2019). **Dr. Keith Kulow** (Nov 2019); **Al Bills** (Nov. 2019); **Kay Dent** (Nov. 2019); **Dr. Roger Riggensbach** (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); and, **Scott & Janet Berry** (May 2021). [Note: 29 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months)

(R=Renewal): Dec 2020: **Robert "Pete" Peterzen** (R); **Dennis Phillips** (R); **Craig Miller**; **Jesse & Kathy Bush** (R); **Larry Bush** (R); **Scott & Janet Berry** (R); **Patrick Boab** (R); and, **Jeffrey Watson**; **Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Bob Garcia** (R); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Chris Beam** (R); **Les Matheson** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Mrs. Chong Parisot); and, **Patt & Caroline Maney**. Jan 2021: **Fred Westfall** (R); **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); Feb 2021: **Rod Gerdes** (R); and **Chris Beam** (R); Mar 2021: **Dave Davis** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day); **Fred Boyer** (R) (In honor of Marlene Bosak); **Joy Houck** (R) (In memory of Maj. Stanley Houck); Apr 2021: **Dr. Keith Kulow** (R); **Kevin Kirby**; May 2021: **Larry Bush** (R); **Patrick Boab** (R); **Al Bills** (R); **Scott & Janet Berry** (R); **Dick Solt** (R); June 2021: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Sam Lombardo); Aug 2021: **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); **Donald Litke** (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); Anonymous (In memory of David Baker); **Chuck Merkel** (R); Sept 2021: **Paul & Kathy Gerth** (In memory of Larry and Ann Shingler); **Doug Hardin** (R) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk); **George Colton** (R) (In memory of Larry and Ann Shingler); and, **Kevin Kirk** (R). Oct 2021: **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Howard & Irene Fisher** (R); **Craig Miller** (R); Nov 2021: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Dick Prater); **Bob Gramm** (R); **Joe Stevens** (R); **Jesse & Kathy Bush** (R); **Fran Hendricks**; **Dan Brown** (R); **Robert 'Pete' Peterzen** (R); **Mark Fluker**; and **Charlotte Eschmann** (in-kind).

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Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 5

2019/2020 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 min. donation): Oct 2019: Shalimar Cheers Pub (\$1,000) (R).

2019/2020 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): May 2021: Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass).

2020/2021 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): TBD

2021 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): R); May 2021: Eye MD of Niceville (R); Nov 2021: Lee Nissan of FWB; Buffalo's Reef of FWB (in-kind); Mary's Kitchen of FWB (in-kind); Painting With a Twist of FWB (in-kind); Repeat Street Thrift Store of FWB (in-kind).

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

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

Major Pharmacy (cont.)

Continued from page 4

complexity of specialty medications, beneficiaries will have a 30-day grace period to move their specialty medication. The grace period is for specialty medications only; non-specialty prescriptions must be transferred by Dec. 15.

Changes to network participation are part of any prescription drug plan and help to keep costs down. MOAA will continue to monitor access to retail network pharmacies and stand by to assist impacted MOAA members who encounter problems finding an alternate pharmacy as the Dec. 15 transition date approaches. Please report problems with transferring your prescriptions to legis@moaa.org.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

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

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Dave Parisot, President, 56 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

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Last Chance for Military Ball Tickets!!

This year's Military Ball will be held at the Fort Walton Yacht Club on 9 December with social hour starting at 1800. This is your last chance to purchase tickets to this year's gala! To purchase tickets contact Karl Eschmann at 850-621-7482 or email him at phanfix@cox.net or see him at the 2 December NWFMOA meeting. Tickets are only \$60.

December 2nd is the last day to get your ticket! Hope to see everyone there.



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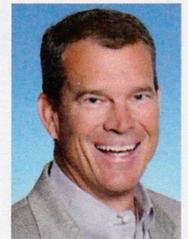
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AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social cultural, professional and service activities that extend for the local to national levels.

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
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Life Member New Member Renewal Surviving Spouse Other _____

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

