



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 19 No. 2 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services FEBRUARY 2013

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed. 6 February 2013
Time: Open: 0700; Bkfst: 0715;
 Meeting: 0800-0900
Place: Eglin Bayview Club
Program: "Behind the Scenes On Some American Greats,"
 Col Elvin C. Bell, USAF (Ret)

Eglin Bayview Breakfast

Please:

- Make a reservation
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.
 \$7.00 for Club Members
 \$9.00 for Non-Members

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

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What do JFK, John Lennon, Goldwater, and Elvis have in Common? By Scott Berry

Our speaker for February, Col Elvin C. Bell, USAF (Ret), knew them all plus a lot more. Did you attend the Watergate hearings and sit next to John Lennon? Col Bell did. He's the author of ten books who had three White House assignments and met many most of us would call the "rich and/or famous." Colonel Bell is a Destin resident and has been a member of MOAA and our Association for about 15 years.

In addition to his 31 years of military service which started in the infantry, Col Bell commanded an Infantry Company and a Combat Support Squadron. He has served faculty assignments at the National War College and conducted sensitive intelligence missions into Eastern Europe during the 1970s. He also served as a key presidential advisor during the Nixon-Brezhnev White House Summit Conference in June 1973. Colonel Bell has a BA in Journalism from California State University, Fresno; an MPA in Public Administration from California State University, Long Beach; an LL.B in Law from LaSalle Law School in Chicago; and a Ph.D in Business Administration and Management from California Coast University in Santa Ana, California.

His current book, "The Event Makers I've Known," is approaching best seller status. His remarks to us will cover

several of the personalities who are featured in the book such as: Presidents John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan; Generals William Westmoreland and Alexander Haig; Admirals Elmo Zumwalt and Hyman Rickover; Senator

Barry Goldwater, Dr. Edwin Teller, Elvis Presley, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Gregory Peck, Frank Sinatra, Walt Disney, John Lennon, Joe Louis and Leo, the MGM lion. His part-time job for two years as a kid was to water Leo. The books will be available at the meeting and proceeds go

to Colonel Bell's Central High School Alumni Scholarship Fund in Fresno to help needy and worthy seniors go to college.

In addition to his military and literary careers, Col Bell also served 16 years in elected public office in California including the position of mayor of Fresno.

His time is now spent being a lay leader in the Destin United Methodist Church, playing golf, taking guitar lessons, and caring for Abby, his Rag Doll cat that supervises the estate. His goal, if and when he becomes proficient in playing the guitar, is to be the front man for a rock group that does the midnight to 4 A. M. gig at the Swamp.

Can you find any reason to **NOT** attend our next breakfast? Neither can I!



President's Corner

By Jeff Watson

By the time you read this we will be in the middle of winter in the Florida Panhandle and none of us had to shovel the sidewalk. What a great place to live! We have just completed our installation of officers and I really appreciate Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, Jr., past The Retired Officers Association (TROA) president (and our chapter president), performing the installation ritual for us. For those of you who weren't able to attend, Gen Manor also was our guest speaker and provided us valuable information from some of his previous experiences. He was not only TROA president from 1980-1986 but also a specially appointed commission member to review the 1980 Tehran rescue attempt. He expressed his concern about embassies around the world, and as you know, history, if not studied, has a tendency to repeat itself.



Jeff Watson

The general also talked about the increase in our organization membership through 1996 and where the average membership is today. The national organization, MOAA, is re-focusing on the chapter membership for 2013 and that tied in to the comments by Gen Manor. Speaking of national MOAA, Col Steve Strobridge, MOAA's Director for Government Relations, will be attending the Florida Council of Chapters meeting in Sarasota at the end of the month. I always enjoy his investment and finance articles in the MOAA magazine. I will be there and will hopefully bring back a lot of good information to share at next month's meeting. If any of you plan to attend, please let me know. It would be great to increase the number of NWFMOA attendees at the mid-winter meeting and it will be an opportunity to expand our Officers Call beyond the Panhandle. I want to take this opportunity to thank the past presidents of our chapter that attended the installation of officers. With so many ways to spend a morning, I appreciate you coming out to support us. As we look forward this year, I would like to place our focus on recruiting more members. I know that in my neighborhood, there are some former officers that I have not invited to join us. I'll change that. I ask each of you to do the same. Sometimes all it takes

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Personal Affairs

Contributed by Gayle Norgaard



Gayle Norgaard

VA Purchases Land for Two New National Cemeteries in Florida

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that it has purchased land for two new national cemeteries in Florida.

"We are pleased to expand burial service to families in the Sunshine State where so many Veterans live," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Acquiring this land is a key step forward in bringing these national shrines to Florida."

VA plans to construct one of the cemeteries in central eastern Florida between the cities of Daytona and Melbourne, and the other in northwestern Florida, in the Tallahassee area. Together, the facilities will serve an estimated population of 247,000 Veterans and family members who are not currently served with an open national, state or tribal Veteran's cemetery within 75 miles of their residence.

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Member Spotlight



Bob Allen

Treasurer's Update

By Dan Cobbs

The past holiday season was time to reflect on the year behind us and a time to look toward the next year. 2012 ushered in numerous events of recognition and discovery in our learning workshops. With change, there is the arrival of new opportunities to connect with one another, to build bridges and to help others. It is in a spirit of gratitude and hopefulness that we anticipate 2013 to be filled with success for our Chapter.



Dan Cobbs

As of 7 January 2013 the following members have renewed through 31 December 2013. This list does not include life members or those members who have renewed for multiple years with expiration dates starting in 2014. I will publish that list in my next article.

Adams, Janis; Adelsperger, Ann; Albaugh, Gary; Allen, Robert; Anderson, Michael; Aufdemorte, Lewis; Barnes, Michael; Berry, Robert; Blakley, Norman; Boykin, James; Brewer, Barbara; Brigman, Marvin; Brown, Daniel; Brown, Ralph; Bryant, Melvin; Buhrow, Robert; Byron, Lucien; Cain, Iva; Campbell, Virginia; Carter, Betty; Chargaes, William; Cheatum, Wayne; Colgan, William; Colton, George; Comer, Richard; Danford, Betty; Davis, James; Davis, Robert; Drane, Laurene; Dreyer, Christian; Ehlert, Barbara; England, James; Eschmann, Karl; Fagan, William; Fox, Ray; Garcia, Robert; Giganti, George; Gillette, Jack; Godbold, Tom; Goodart, James; Grete, Robert; Griffing, Walter; Hagwood, Henry; Hains, Robert; Haley, Mary; Hall, Don; Hallion, Chris; Hamilton, Ronald; Hammond, Robert; Hane, Wilma; Hardin, Douglas; Haynes, George; Heckroth, Lewis; Hines, Larry; Jannazo, John; Jenrich, Edwin; Johnson, Richard; Keating, James; Kindurys, Victor; Lee, Kenneth; Liljedahl, Weymer; Lindsay, James; Marks, Donald; Martin, Charles; Mayo, Anna; Mickey, George; Mills, Ginny; Mitchell, Eugene; Mixon, Minora; Morehouse, Clyde; Morgan, Houston; Morris, Jon; Nichols, Dorothy; O'Connor, Patrick; Padden, Robert; Patten, John; Peacock, William; Pemberton, David; Perry, Catherine; Petersen, Linda; Peterson, Jerry; Pettey, Joanne; Pigg, Jimmy; Potter, Joanne; Prater, Richard; Pugh, Ida; Quigley, Michael; Rhodes, Hugh; Robertson, Jean; Robertson, Jimmie; Rogers, Travis; Ross, Peter; Ruyle, Ralph; Sambogna, Felix; Schinz, Lorraine; Schroer, Louis; Shingler, Larry; Shook, Margaret; Sidel, Lawrence; Singleton, Paul; Smith, Gerald; Smith, Roger; Stearns, Allen; Stevens, Halbert; Stevens, Joseph; Sullivan, Juanita; Taylor, Maureen; Thomas, Francis; Trambley, Joseph; Tucker, Roger; Van Damme, Maurice;

Van Hoesen, Bill; Watson, Jeffrey; Weeks, Leo; White, Jack; Young, Sue.

Thank you for your continual support during 2012. For those of you that have renewed, I will be forwarding to Scott your renewal dates and any changes in your mailing address.

On behalf of the 2012 Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for being one of the NWFMOA Chapter members. We appreciate your years of dedication and choosing to participate as a chapter member.

Thank You For Your Service!

By Scott Berry

With the installation of officers last month we welcomed some new faces to the board. But we also said farewell to several who have been pillars for our leadership team and chapter.

Bob Garcia has been a board member for many years. He wrote many articles on computer tips for the *Defender* so many could use computers for more than Solitaire and checking the weather. Behind the scenes Bob was frequently the voice of reason at board meetings after all the hot air had been expended. Though not a person of many words, Bob's comments would frequently bring the rest of us back to planet earth and reality.

Jim Summitt also served for a lengthy period of time. Monthly meeting attendees always saw his smiling face when they arrived and he missed the meal conversation, stories told around the coffee pot, and most of the program to ensure latecomers got checked in and paid for their meal. He also was our interface with the club. He signed contracts, negotiated prices, and resolved problems before they became disasters. He provided the oil on the squeaky wheel before anyone else noticed the sound.

Gayle Norgaard left the board but thankfully agreed to stay on as the chair for the personal affairs committee so we'll continue to see the fruits of her efforts in a program that was dormant before she revived it.

Dan Cobbs served ably as our treasurer for the past year. Although he chose to not run for another term, he graciously agreed to stay in the position on an interim basis until a new treasurer can be found. He's already left indelible marks on board actions and perspectives by bringing a current business world approach to chapter activities.

I know I speak for the chapter in thanking each of these fine volunteers for the contributions they've made and hope they'll continue to show their smiling faces at chapter events.

2013 Chapter Officers



(L to R): Jeff Watson, Eddie McAllister, Tom Godbold, Scott Berry, Bill Van Hoesen, Bob Padden, and Paul Singleton.

Penthouse Prices with Cellar Service By Scott Berry



Scott Berry

Is your internet connection acting slower than it should? Spending too much time watching that hour glass? Hmm....me too.

It wasn't my computer which was relatively new and a screamer. Possibly my router? Not likely. How about the level of service from my internet provider? Not a chance! I pay a pretty penny for one of the best packages. It's **supposed to** be the Veg-a-matic of internet service: it slices, dices, and downloads gigabytes of data in nanoseconds. Note the bold font above and read on.

A friend of mine who's a card carrying computer, ah, person helped me troubleshoot the problem independent of my service provider. The calculated internet speed was the same as my provider's cheapest plan (essential vs my preferred plan) with a price difference of about \$15/month. No wonder it took even spam email to take a month to reach me! The NWFMOA web site still showed Hap Arnold as a chapter board member!

After donning my shiny suit of armor and mounting my white steed, I called my provider and had them perform

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TAPS – In Memoriam

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Died</u>
Col James R. Kiser, USAF (Ret)	December 14, 2012
Maj Gen William B. Maxson, USAF (Ret)	January 3, 2013

On behalf of NWFMOA, we express our sympathy to the families of those who have passed to their eternal rest. We wish comfort for all those who grieve.

Why Don't?

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

Say What????

Lymph, v. To walk with a lisp.

Previous Chapter Presidents Attend Installation



(L to R): Ken Wright, Bill Van Hoesen, Bob Secrest, Gen Manor, Al Stearns, Bill Mann, John Connors, and Bill Byerley.

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VA completed acquisition of the central eastern Florida property on July 31 and paid \$2 million for 318 acres of land. The property, formerly known as Acosta Groves, is located on U. S. Route 1 in northern Brevard County in Scottsmoor, approximately two miles from Interstate 95.

VA purchased the Tallahassee property for \$6.8 million on Aug. 14. The 250-acre parcel is in Leon County with frontage along U.S. Highway 27 (Apalachee Parkway). VA purchased the land from the St. Joe Company, one of Florida's largest real estate development firms. The cemetery will also serve Veterans in southwestern Georgia and southeastern Alabama.

VA has opened three new national cemeteries in Florida over the past five years including Jacksonville National Cemetery (2009), Sarasota National Cemetery (2009), and South Florida National Cemetery (2007).

Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell opened in 1988 and is now the second busiest VA national cemetery in the country with 6,728 interments completed in fiscal year 2011. Of VA's 131 cemeteries across the nation, the state of Florida is home to six national cemeteries that rank among the top 32 busiest by interment workload.

Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, established in 1868, serves Florida's western panhandle and southern Alabama. A recent expansion of the historic cemetery ensures that it will remain open with a full range of burial options for decades to come.

Bay Pines National Cemetery was established in 1933 and has been closed to first interment casketed burials since 1989. The facility still offers cremation burial sites. St. Augustine National Cemetery, established in 1881, has been closed since 1997.

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Also eligible are military personnel who die on active duty, their spouses and eligible dependents. Other burial benefits available for all eligible Veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private

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The Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) and auxiliary liaisons had a productive year in 2012. We completed the Cell Phones for Soldiers project, exceeding our goal of 1 million prepaid minutes by 76 percent. The value of an auxiliary liaison in our chapters or councils is well-documented. If your chapter or council has not yet appointed one, we urge you to do so immediately. MOAA is facing many challenges at this time and an auxiliary liaison will be a valuable asset to your leadership team as we work together to meet those challenges.

In April, the AMAC helped MOAA "storm the hill," urging Congress to pass specific legislation to keep faith with the benefits promised to our military when they volunteered to serve.

The AMAC communicated with chapter liaisons across the country in May and June 2012. Of all the issues discussed, the major issue was elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset for unremarried surviving military spouses. Currently, for these surviving spouses, SBP, an annuity purchased by service members, is offset by DIC they might receive because of their spouses' service-connected death. The offset is unfair!

The amendment to include provisions of S. 260 in the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Bill was defeated. Fifty-eight senators supported it, but they did not support its inclusion without available funds to cover the cost of the offset during a 10-year period. A vote of 60 was required to include the amendment without available funds to cover offset costs.

The AMAC will focus in 2013 on educating members of Congress and military families about the inequitable SBP/DIC offset and garner support for legislation to eliminate the offset. We will need the help of chapter and auxiliary liaison leadership. (Stay tuned for more information about the "Educate the Hill" initiative, which will take place July 16-17.)

At MOAA's annual meeting in October 2012, the board of directors approved the voting eligibility of auxiliary members. What a great year!

Penthouse Prices with Cellar Service (cont.)

Continued from page 4

their own test via their "Internet Tools" option. Same result. The polite technician said he had to contact Pensacola for a remedy and the problem was fixed within a day. But what about the \$15/month extra I'd been paying for a loooooong time? My Veg-a-matic had been replaced by a dull rusty butter knife and no one told me!

Having removed my suit of armor and put my steed out to pasture I did nothing for several months until the armor beckoned me from the corner to re-engage and attempt some sort of refund. My bad in waiting so long but the suit still fit and the steed was stabled nearby so off I went again.

I had written down the date/time/technician's name of the initial call and was fortunate to talk with him again and he actually remembered my call. His supervisors told him I was only eligible for a two month credit (\$30). As the decision was clearly above his pay grade, I accepted but when the satisfaction survey arrived I unleashed my literary fury--even mentioning my penchant for being a consumer advocate ala David and Goliath and my work as a newsletter editor.

Despite a request for someone to contact me, the silence of the service provider's response has been deafening. In addition to educating the membership, this article is written with my armor re-polished and a new lance to hopefully get a more equitable settlement.

The independent site I used was speedtest.net. Your internet provider may offer a tool to do the same. Compare them. If you experience the same issue please let me know what Goliath tells you and whether it was resolved to your satisfaction.

President's Corner (cont.)

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is a simple invitation like the one Jack Dale gave me just after I retired back to this area.

Finally, I want to thank immediate past president Ken Wright and his wife, Erica, for their constant devotion to our chapter over the past two years. He kept us on an even keel and I hope that I can continue the good work that he started and with your assistance make a difference for our chapter. Until we meet, stay healthy, keep smiling and enjoy our part of Florida!

Legislative Musings...by Bill Van Hoesen



Bill Van Hoesen

As of 30 DEC 2012, there were 6715 House and 3711 Senate bills introduced in the 112th Congress. Most of these, thankfully, will never make it into law. At <http://thomas.loc.gov> you can review a copy of each bill's text, determine its current status and number of cosponsors, the committee it has been assigned to, who

your representative is and his/her phone number, mailing address, or email/website to communicate with a message or letter of your own making, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it. To separately determine what bills, amendments your representative has sponsored, cosponsored, or dropped sponsorship on refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d111/sponlst.html>.

TRICARE Pharmacy Copay Update: The TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) wasted little time in announcing the rate increases agreed upon. The new pharmacy fee plan includes a requirement for beneficiaries

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Personal Affairs (cont.)

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cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment.

In the midst of the largest expansion since the Civil War, VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3.8 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 20,000 acres of land.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

Legislative Musings (cont.)

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65 and older to have all maintenance drugs for chronic conditions refilled, for at least one year, through TRICARE mail order or at base pharmacies, rather than through retail outlets where the cost to TRICARE is a third higher. After a one year period beneficiaries could opt out of the program. TMA will need to publish a draft regulation, solicit public comment and launch an education effort for elderly beneficiaries before it begins to enforce home delivery for seniors. That most likely could delay starting that portion of the pharmacy plan until April or later. While the mandatory home delivery will take a bit longer to implement, TMA expects once beneficiaries see how convenient the service is they will stay with it and not switch.

113th Congress Military Vets: When members of the House and Senate filed past the casket of Daniel Inouye as he lied in state in the Capitol Rotunda on 20 DEC, they were mourning more than the death of a dear friend and historic colleague. They also were grieving the passing of an era in which veterans of 16 World War II dominated American politics. In 1963, when Inouye joined the

Senate, more than half of his colleagues shared an important bond with him: The distinguishing fact of their lives had been their service in that war. But, with Inouye's passing at age 88, that era quietly comes close to its final moment.

The 2013 Senate that that just opened will have the fewest veterans since the Senate Historian started tracking them in the 79th Congress, 1945-47. The number of veterans in the body peaked at 81 in 1977 and never fell below 50 until 1997. The 113th Senate includes a record-low 18 veterans. Veterans' shrinking influence was also evident in the 2012 presidential race. Critics have also suggested the vanishing number of veterans in politics has affected the way members approach issues and their willingness to work with others. Certainly, the mind-set is different from that of earlier generations, in which military service was either expected or—because of the draft—feared.

Logical Puns

A cartoonist was found dead in his home.
Details are sketchy.

WE SALUTE YOUR SERVICE.

Now it's our turn to serve you! Come Live With Us!

Those of us at Westwood Retirement Resort would like to say to all our veterans, "Thank you for your service. Thank you for protecting our freedom."

And should the time come that you wish to make the move to a retirement community, it would be our honor to serve you. At Westwood Retirement Resort you can enjoy the best years of your life and have access to our on-campus Healthcare Center for short-term rehab or long-term care.


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**The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.

Membership Application/Renewal

New Members joining in 2013
receive membership through December
31st of 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

Auxiliary Members

Pay one half of the above rates