



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 23 No. 02 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services FEBRUARY 2017

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 2 February 2017

Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow

Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB

Program: "Home Alone"

Maj Gen Don Litke,
USAF (Ret)

Please:

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

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

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"Home Alone" is More than Just a Movie

By Scott Berry

This month's presentation is "Page 2" of a very well received talk last year by Brian Macneel on home security. However, this presentation, given by one of our chapter members, Maj Gen Don Litke, USAF (Ret), focuses on the need to plan for personal emergencies by seniors (like most of us) with special emphasis on those of us who live alone. Hence the title "Home Alone."

Without stealing any of Gen Litke's thunder, I will say that the report that serves as the basis for his comments is very well researched and provides extremely practical and concrete suggestions. There isn't any philosophical "fuzz" on what his working group accomplished and the products of their efforts. I suspect he'll bring some hard copy information that we can take home with us.

The study was initiated and conducted by the Institute for Senior Professionals (ISP) at NW Florida State College. The ISP is an organization of 40-50 mostly retired and semi-retired senior men and women who have enjoyed careers as executives and professionals in many varied fields of endeavor. The members of ISP meet on a regular basis to exchange ideas, review requests for assistance from government



Institute for Senior Professionals
Northwest Florida State College

agencies and non-profits, hear task force progress and reports, and listen to invited speakers from various fields on subjects of current interest.

ISP offers senior professionals the opportunity to work in small project teams with outstanding members of our communities, college faculty and staff to help analyze important problems and offer pro bono advice. It is their intent to continue to focus their attention on issues that affect our community and to bring their collective wisdom to bear on improving the quality of life. ISP members comprise a "Who's Who" listing who have made significant contributions to our nation and community in their previous careers.

And of course Gen Litke is one of them. He's a decorated combat pilot who's flown 27 types of aircraft. Of special interest to me is his extensive experience in various aspects of the logistics career field. About

Continued on page 4

Officer's Call ! Feb 9th

From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

I'm baaaaaack! Yes, you'll have me to kick around for another year. Thank goodness the chapter has excellent board members to back me up. I'm still wearing two hats as the president and programs chair which is beginning to wear me down. I hope we can find a replacement for the 1st VP position.



Scott Berry

We ended another banner year on recruiting with well over 20 new members. Many chapter members made that a reality and it'll probably guarantee us another Five Star rating in the chapters level of excellence award. That's a big deal for me especially after so many years when we earned a four star rating.

I'll be attending the Florida Council's Winter Leadership Forum later this month. Of particular interest will be many new MOAA faces. Although I've had brief discussions with the new President/CEO, Lt Gen Atkins, who like me is an Oregon native, I'll have the opportunity to meet the new VP for Council and Chapter Affairs as well the Director for C&C Affairs who steps into very

large shoes left by her predecessor COL Barry Wright. I intend to follow up on getting more detail about the many changes that were briefly covered at the national convention as a result of MOAA's bottoms up review. Several programs were decreased or eliminated which has caused concern in some of our sister chapters here in the Panhandle.

I'm sure you share my interest in following changes by the new administration that will benefit the military community. My guess is that most of them will be very positive. You can help with that by writing our Washington representatives. Matt Gaetz will certainly be a vocal advocate. As I've mentioned in the past, you can go to the MOAA website any send pre-formatted letters to our reps. Just takes a minute but well worth the effort.

Keep your eyes open for an OFFICERS CALL announcement later in the Defender. As I write this I'm finalizing the details with a local establishment. We haven't had one in a while so we're overdue. Join us!

Berry "OUT"

PUBLIC RECORD

New Life Members:

Joseph R. Agostinelli, Col USAF

Chris J. Beam, Maj USAR

In Memoriam:

Jack E. Gatewood, Col USAF
Passed away 6 November 2016

Marie L. Wagner, Lt Col USAF
Passed away 14 December 2017

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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.

By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

WHO IS YOUR TRUE VALENTINE

Who births love from within or does a greater love carry us?
 Blurred by a false sense of superficial worldly intimacy
 Few perceive what true love is, does or matures toward?

Love, spiritual and conscientious, fills quadrants of reborn hearts
 With an ineffable and rare fuel from premium angelic springs
 A generous flowing source; wise pilgrims seek her humbly

Airmen affirm God's undeserving benevolence and grace
 He massages out the old bruises, blues and wrinkled pain
 Guiding us today through Christ-like servants, warriors of hope

Love from heaven fills the meek and military peace makers
 They unveil and unbreak the abandoned children of refugees
 Compassionate human touches follow heaven's healing vessels

Today angel Mary washes away my hollow and unmet memories
 I praise the God of second chances through our embracing love
 Doing together, US and WE find peace within so we can love without



By Latayne C. Scott

Many Americans want to do something to show their appreciation for the military.

Some choose to work with one of more than 400,000 organizations that support the military because a group effort often maximizes the help of individuals, through donated materials and other bulk resources. For instance, you probably can't personally construct a smart home for a disabled servicemember like the Gary Sinise Foundation does.

But could you grow a beard? Run a race? Set up a lemonade stand for a "real Lt. Dan"? Sinise says they'll take it.

Here are some other ways you can volunteer to benefit servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

Use your unique talents and abilities: Are you good at filling out tax returns? Can you set up a simple website? Can you offer college or career counseling or mentoring? Do you have a small business? If you've answered yes, then check out the Thank A Vet Network, which is a national registry that connects you to eligible injured veterans and military families in need of these services.

Collect things: Soldiers' Angels can show you how to set up a drive to collect used electronic devices, cell phones and accessories, laptops, and other items. Into recycling? You can collect printer and toner cartridges to benefit Soldiers' Angels, too.

Un-collect things: Operation Gratitude has a program to distribute Beanie Babies to service people. Really.

Militarize your hobbies: Do you quilt? Organizations like Quilts of Valor want you. Knit or crochet? Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation or Operation Gratitude will sign you up. Bake cookies or cakes? Operation We Are Here and Angel Bakers Team can tell you how to package and ship them to servicemembers.

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Surviving Spouse Corner

2016 Year in Review

By Gail Joyce,
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member

Last year was a time of change and new challenges. We began 2016 with a new name — the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) — one the committee felt brought a better understanding of who we are.

In April, we participated in Storming the Hill in Washington, D.C., with 160 MOAA members, visiting our elected representatives to discuss important legislation that would affect the military and their families, including the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. We asked that the offset be fully repealed, but if sufficient funds could not be found, that the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) be extended and increased to continue phasing out the offset completely.

Even though our work on a full repeal of the offset continues, in the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Act, the SSIA has been extended through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate. This will give us a chance to push Congress this year to increase and further extend the allowance or eliminate the offset in its entirety.

Our efforts to increase the number of surviving spouse liaisons at the council and chapter level continue as well. The number of surviving spouse liaisons has increased by 145. However, that number only represents a little more than half of the total chapters. We will continue to promote the importance and benefits of a surviving spouse liaison. Our goal remains 100-percent participation.

In October during MOAA's 2016 annual meeting, we honored two highly qualified and deserving surviving spouses with the Surviving Spouse Excellence Award: Paula Muth of the Heartland (Neb.) Chapter and Barbara Smith of the Hampton Roads (Va.) Chapter.

We also had two very productive committee meetings in 2016, during which we made decisions to:

- increase the member term limit from three years to four years, with an option to extend for up to two more years if a member is willing and able. This should provide more continuity and improve productivity;

- change the start date for new SSAC members from April to October to coincide with the orientation/installation of new members of MOAA's board of directors. New SSAC members can participate in the board of directors orientation and be better informed about MOAA;
- increase the committee from six members to eight members on a trial basis. Two new members will be "virtual members," with no expectation of attending SSAC meetings in person. This might help bring in younger surviving spouses who are unable to travel for extended periods because of jobs, children, or aging parents; and
- find new ways to recruit and engage surviving spouses by:
 - o using *Military Officer* magazine and social media to reach a younger demographic and
 - o reaching out to and involving other organizations, such as the Retired Officers Wives Association, the Society of Military Widows, the Survivor Outreach Services, etcetera.

Because of the decisions made in 2016, we will be a stronger committee in 2017 and the years to come.

"Home Alone" (cont.)

Continued from page 1

ten years after he served as the commander of the United States Logistics Group, Ankara Air Station, Turkey, I inherited his large conference room table and chairs when I was a munitions squadron commander in Balikesir, Turkey. It's a small world!

This is another "must hear" presentation. Make a reservation (please!) and join us.

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.

Officers Call in Here!

Join your fellow chapter members at Props Brewery, 255 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, B-19, Fort Walton Beach, FL on Thursday, February 9th, from 1730 until ??? They have a nice food menu as well so dinner is definitely an option. Props is located in the shopping center with Publix right near the ramp to the Brooks Bridge.



Ways to Volunteer (cont.)

Continued from page 3

Get the teenagers and kids involved: Through Operation Gratitude, teenagers and kids can learn how to create “cool-ties” or even paracord survival bracelets for deployed military personnel — and get community service certification for their efforts. They can discover the frillier side of helping with Operation Top Knot and Operation Shower, both of which provide virtual and on-site baby showers for military families, and Brides Across America, which gives volunteers ways to help provide wedding dresses and accessories for military couples.

Send care packages — hundreds of thousands of them: Operation Gratitude, Operation We Are Here, The Hugs Project, Operation Interdependence, local chapters of Blue Star Mothers, and many other organizations need help packing snacks, hygiene items, magazines, and other items to mail to deployed military personnel.

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Installation of 2017 Officers



Swearing in of the 2017 Officers of NWFLMOA

Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

The 2017 Officers and Directors of our NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc are Dave Parisot, President (3rd year); George Colton, Secretary/Treasurer (3rd year); and Directors Bob Allen (5th year), Leslie Matheson (5th year), and Dr. Fred Westfall (2nd year). There is room for two additional Directors if any Chapter member is interested in serving and committing to our scholarship program. Since the Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with various annual reports due to the State of Florida and to the federal government, serving multiple years and having some continuity is a good thing. I thank our officers and directors for 2017 for their continued service.

We will soon be coordinating with the five high schools in Okaloosa County that have JROTC programs (Baker, Choctawhatchee, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, and Niceville) for applicants of our scholarships for 2017. Applications are due by April 1, 2017. In 2015 and 2016, we awarded \$16,500 in scholarships to nine JROTC cadets. Our objective for 2017 is to award five scholarships totaling \$9,000.

How, you may ask, can I help sustain the NWFMOA scholarship program? May I suggest participation in our **BG Frank Glunn Century Club**? Membership in the Century Club requires a contribution of only \$100 minimum. In 2015, the year we reinstituted the Century Club, we had 15 contributors. In 2016 we had 24 members with all but two of the 2015 members renewing in 2016. Our goal for 2017 is to have at least 30 members and to have all of our 2016 members renew in 2017. Thirty members at \$100 each equals \$3,000 which will fund two of our \$1,500 scholarships. Can we count on you in 2017? There is a donation form in every issue of The Defender.

We thank **Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates)** for their donation of \$500 to the scholarship fund in January. The 50/50 raffle at the January luncheon was won by Dave Parisot who donated his winnings of \$69 to the Scholarship Fund.

Here's the complete list of Century Club members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2016/2017 along with our Business Donors:

Continued on page 7

Ways to Volunteer (concluded)

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The personal touch: You can serve as a greeter at an airport or as a listening friend at a veterans' retirement home. Write "a letter from home" to servicemembers from you personally or from hundreds who will sign them at tables you can set up in shopping centers and malls as suggested by the National Remember Our Troops Campaign. An inexpensive and modern option is personalized email, accompanied by a "Cup of joe for a Joe" code through Green Beans Coffee.

"I appreciated that almost more than 15 or so cards from people I didn't even know," says Maj. Carla Gleason, USAF, of treasured correspondence sent to her by Blue Star Moms during her recent deployment overseas. "The [military] recipient gets a glimpse into the lives of the individuals he or she is serving for," Gleason says. "Sometimes it's inspiring to remember that. People who write personal letters of thanks helped me remember why I chose to leave my family for a time and serve my country."

Find local opportunities: Locally, veterans' medical facilities look for volunteers to drive people to appointments and provide other needed help. For other opportunities, contact your neighborhood United Way, United Service Organizations, Disabled American Veterans, Blue Star Mothers chapters, any VFW Post, or MOAA chapter. Many of the other organizations mentioned above have local offices as well.

But what about others who might ask for your time and money to benefit military causes? Read "Be Smart About Charitable Giving" and "Your Guide to Charity Evaluation Tools" for information and resources that will help you choose and give to a charity with confidence.

Will Says...

Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash in Alaska with bush pilot Wiley Post, was one of the greatest political country/cowboy sages this country has ever known. One of his sayings was, "If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."

Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 6

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: January 2016: **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); **Dan Brown** (Renewal). February 2016: **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Charlie Brown**; **John Holt**; **Bill Ryan**. March 2016: **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **William Colgan**; **Dave Parisot** (Renewal). May 2016: **Kristine Sams**. June 2016: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal). July 2016: **Beryl Brenner** (Renewal); August 2016: **Tom Churan** (Renewal); October 2016: **Ruth Cullen** (in memory of William Cullen) (Renewal); **John Feldman** (Renewal); November 2016: **Pete Peterzen**; **Jean Dutton**; **Howard Fisher** (Renewal); December 2016: **Karl Eschmann** (in memory of Col. Bud Day) (Renewal); **Frederick Rall** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); January 2016: **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Dick Prater** (Renewal)

2016/2017 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): December 2016: **Wyndham Vacation Resorts** (In-kind).

2017 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): January 2017: **Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates)**

2016/2017 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2016: **Eglin Federal Credit Union**; December 2016: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club** (In-kind); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind).

2016/2017 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): November 2016: **Gator Lakes Golf Course**; December 2016: **Tammy's Journeys** (In-kind); **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind); **Dr. Wayne Pullen** (In-kind).

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. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



***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.***



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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	Phone	
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Email Address		
Rank	Service	MOAA Mbr. No
<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:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary <input type="checkbox"/> 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

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