



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 21 No. 01 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services JANUARY 2015

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed., 7 Jan 2015

Time: Open: 0700; Bkfst: 0715
 Meeting: 0800-0900

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

Program: Dr. Steve Butler

Please:

• **MAKE A RESERVATION**

• Wear a name tag

• Bring proper change. **\$8.00** for everyone.

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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Coming to The Meridian at Westwood – Dr. Steve Butler

Dr. Steve Butler is the Director of the Doolittle Institute in Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He is also a retired member of the Senior Executive Service for the U.S. government. In his last government position he was the Executive Director, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. In that capacity, Dr. Butler advised the AFMC Commander in managing all aspects of the command's mission to deliver war-winning capabilities, aircraft and weapon systems on time and on cost to America's warfighters.



**Dr. Steven Butler,
 Doolittle Institute Director**

Prior to his assignment as the Executive Director for HQ AFMC, he was Executive Director of Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB, Ga. Dr. Butler served in many broad assignments from developing

precision guided weapons to senior advisory roles in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He was involved with the F-22 development and the Joint Direct Attack Munition. Early in his career he was known for his hands-on expertise in electro-optical and radar guided weapons.

The charter of the Doolittle Institute is to create an innovative environment for bringing together the best minds of Industry, Academia, and Government to collaborate and find solutions to the toughest Science and Technology challenges while championing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for all levels of society. If you want to

challenge your knowledge of science and engineering or just enjoy listening to a very personable engineer, join us in January!

Inflation bit us. Breakfast is now \$8.00!

President's Message

By Jeff Watson, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

Happy Holidays!

Wow! This is the time of the year for us to enjoy holiday parties, Christmas parties office parties, and more! We had our very own Military Ball on the 4th of December and it was fantastic! I hope everyone who came had a good time.



Jeff Watson

We are quickly closing in on the installation of new officers at the 7 January 2015 monthly member meeting. As you may know, we elected Colonel (Ret.) Scott Berry to be our next Northwest Florida Military Officers Association chapter president. Along with Col Berry, we have 1st Vice President Lt Col (Ret.) Tom Godbold, 2nd Vice President Col (Ret.) Dick Prater, Treasurer Lt Col (Ret.) Buddy Bowman.

Speaking of Scott, Col Berry kindly volunteered to Chair the Military Ball and be the Master of Ceremonies as well. With the posting of Colors by the Choctawhatchee JROTC Honor Guard and Lt Col (Ret.) Tom Churan performing Chaplain duty, we launched the annual Military Ball at the Fort Walton Yacht Club Thursday night. The meal was superb, as was the service! Retroactive performed for us and were a hit as our members enjoyed a night of dancing. Of course, our members kept our military tradition by rendering appropriate toasts to the Commander-in-Chief, our spouses and our fallen comrades. The night was topped off with our sponsor raffle items. We had a lot of choice donations by area businesses. For those who came to the Ball, I thank you for this is our big event where we generate the largest contributions for our JROTC scholarships for the cadets at our five area high schools. I also thank all of our area businesses that contributed to the fund-raising success of the Ball.

PUBLIC RECORD

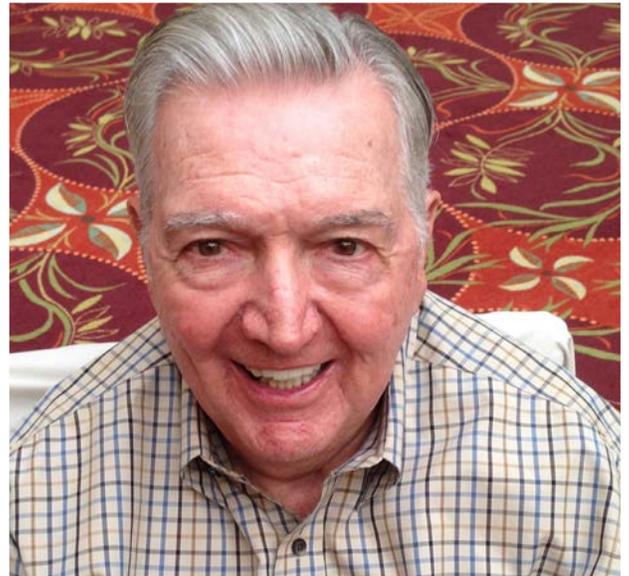
IN MEMORIAM: Mrs Mary H. Nied, AUX, 11/24/2014; Mrs Betty J. Carter, AUX, 11/23/2014.

NEW LIFE MEMBER: Maj Eugene E. Mitchell, USAF (Ret).

If you did not attend the Ball, I strongly encourage you to join us next year! Not a single attendee took me up on my offer to escort you from the parking lot to the Yacht Club entrance. For those that do not understand the offer, we have previously held our Military Ball where you could lose your car in the parking lot or get lost on the way to the Ballroom. Fortunately, that did not happen this year. ☺

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Member Spotlight



Col. (Ret.) Chuck Miller

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Secretary's Scrawl By Scott Berry

Greetings!

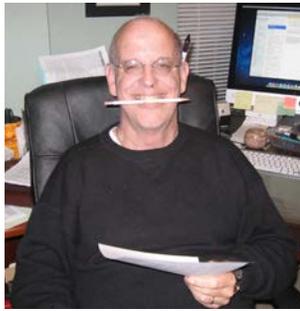
Boy, I hope that's the last time I have to type that—at least with my secretarial hat on which I've been wearing almost constantly since I joined the chapter.

Have I mentioned we really need a secretary? Not a glamorous job but certainly key to the smooth operation of the chapter. Please take time to consider this responsibility. It's easier than it may appear and the corporate memory is close at hand.

Thank you to those who have already renewed and an additional thank for those who also included a renewal application. Phone numbers, email addresses, and home addresses change and your chapter doesn't always get the new information so it's beneficial to include that application to ensure we can continue to communicate with you.

Those of you who didn't attend the military ball missed a great event. Lots of camaraderie, great music, and opportunities for prizes of all sorts.

Berry "OUT"



Scott Berry

Wrap up 2014 with a tax-deductible donation that helps

December 19, 2014

Alexandria, Va. — "Make your year-end giving more meaningful with a tax-deductible donation to show deep appreciation for our military personnel and ensure children from military families continue to receive the financial assistance they need to become successful citizens of this great nation," said MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan.

The MOAA Scholarship Fund, a public charity, has provided interest-free loans and grants of more than \$130

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Auxiliary Corner: What Does It Mean to Be Gold?

By Gail Joyce, member, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee [edited]

Part 2

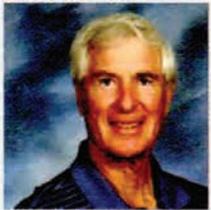
During World War II, families flew flags in their windows denoting someone in their family was serving in the military. These flags — bordered in red, with a center of white and a star for each member of the family serving — still are being flown today. A blue star represents someone serving in a current conflict, a silver star means someone has been wounded in combat, and a gold star represents a fallen family member.

In 1947, an act of Congress standardized the service banners and established the Gold Star pins to issue to immediate family members of service members killed in combat. The pin is a gold star on a field of purple surrounded by laurel leaves. A pin for next of kin was approved in 1973. It is a gold star on a gold background surrounded by four oak sprigs.

Congress and the military are making an effort to recognize and honor survivors. Congress has designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day. Dec. 18 has been designated as Gold Star Wives Day. The Army has developed three public service announcements to inform Americans of the significance of the Gold Star.

Raising awareness about it also is our responsibility as survivors as we continue to honor our loved ones. A Gold Star is something no parent or spouse ever wants to receive. It forever changes who you are. And, I, for one, don't want anyone to ever forget this sacrifice.

- See more at: http://www.moaa.org/main_article.aspx?id=15274#sthash.h85Liuun.dpuf

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Pictures from Opus One and the Military Ball



President's Message (cont.)

Continued from page 2

Okay, who missed Opus One? I didn't! They were as entertaining as I anticipated and put us all in the Christmas spirit with their festive holiday songs. I especially enjoyed their rendition of "Little Toy Trains." Preparing this article I learned that Roger Miller wrote the song and it is "Old Toy Trains." Anyway, Opus One also sang a song called "Good King Kong" and finished their performance with "Grandma's Killer Fruitcake!" Even if you have seen them before, it is always hilarious to watch these high-schoolers perform and the look of surprise on one of our guests at the end of the song was definitely "special" (be there next year and you'll know why).

As we move into the New Year with a change of leadership, I want to thank my 2014 officers and the 2014 board of directors for keeping us on track pursuing the ideals of Officership and infusing our ranks with camaraderie, leadership and vision. I also want to thank those volunteers like Mrs. Nancy Prater (who helps monthly serving food), LTC (Ret.) Fred Rall (who collects the money when you come to breakfast), Mrs. Ima Cheatum (who volunteered to be our editor just because she is our friend) and Mrs. Marilyn Smith (who oversaw the cadets as they posted the Colors for us). We will close out this year as a success and I will hand over chapter leadership having achieved a lot of fun with you. I hope that we will continue to have Officer Calls and I expect we will continue to win 4-star streamers for our chapter flag and set as our goal to bring back a five-star streamer!

I want to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments over the past two years that I have been the chapter president. You may recall that we started 2013 on base but chose an off-base location so that we could continue our 50/50 member raffle and have reasonably-priced quality breakfasts. We found The Meridian at Westwood met our needs and our membership meetings continued unabated. We lost some member heroes over the last two

years but continued to gain new ones. We championed the cause of the military locally, regionally and nationally as we attended state and national conferences and in the process let other chapters know about us. We brought into our meetings speakers from all walks: authors, elected officials, nationally known business representatives and even our members to discuss their passions and vocations. We even had one meeting where our members volunteered to share their service story. I thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you as chapter president.

Until we meet again and the gavel falls for the last time for me, we are adjourned!

Jeff Watson

Thank You Meeting Attendees!

Your generosity to Opus One at the December breakfast totaled \$346! They were very appreciative when Col (Ret.) Scott Berry made the presentation. Thank you again for donating to such a worthy cause.

Jeff Watson, Colonel (Ret.), USAF

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Treasurer's Update

By Kevin Sutton, Treasurer

Anyone recognize this movie quote? "The heavenly aroma still hung in the house. But it was gone, all gone! No turkey! No turkey sandwiches! No turkey salad! No turkey gravy! Turkey Hash! Turkey a la King! Or gallons of turkey soup! Gone, ALL GONE!" I hope your Christmas dinner went much better than Ralphie's when the Bumpass "hounds" devoured the turkey in a matter of seconds . . . in case you didn't recognize that quote, it is from one of the classic Christmas movies (and one of my favorites), "A Christmas Story."



LtCol Kevin Sutton

Oops! Did you get so wrapped up in the Christmas frenzy that you forgot to pay your annual membership dues for 2015? Are you one of the approximately 65 members who haven't yet renewed for 2015? If so, there's still time! Just whip out that checkbook and mail a check to the address listed on the back page of the Defender. But how much do I need to pay? Good question! The dues fee schedule is also listed on the back page of the Defender. When does my current membership expire? Check the mailing label on your hardcopy of the Defender. There should be a year listed on the mailing label. If yours says 2014, your membership expires at the end of this year and it is time for you to renew. If you opted out of receiving the Defender in the mail and you download it from the NWFMOA website instead, you will not have the mailing label to reference for your membership expiration date. In that case, just email or call Scott Berry and he will have the information you are looking for.

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The Chapter remains financially solvent. We have been in the black for the past couple months with lots of Military Ball RSVP payments coming in along with 2015 dues payments. The Military Ball is planned as a zero profit/zero loss event, so that will all come out in the wash once the bills are paid. The 2015 dues payments will cover our operating expenses for a few months, but our overall operating expenses are still exceeding our income when averaged out over the entire year. We welcome any ideas you may have for improving our bottom line.

As 2014 comes to a close, so does my tenure as your Treasurer. I have enjoyed fulfilling the Treasurer duties for this fine organization, and I thank you for entrusting me with this important duty for the past 6 months. I know the Chapter's financial assets will be in great hands as I turn the reins over to Buddy Bowman. Cha-ching!

Tax-deductible donation (cont.)

Continued from page 3

million to more than 13,500 students since its inception in 1948. It is based on MOAA's founding principle that "education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy." It is supported by donations and bequests from MOAA members, chapters and corporations.

"I remain concerned by the current economic environment." Ryan continued. "The number of applications we receive for educational assistance increases each year, as does the cost of college tuition. MOAA hopes to continue to provide this first-class educational assistance program for thousands of military children in 2015 and beyond."

Top reasons for supporting the MOAA Scholarship Fund:

- All donations go to the children of officer and enlisted military personnel, regardless if they are on Active Duty, Guard, serving in Reserves, or retired.
- 100 percent of donations go to students – 0 percent pays for overhead.
- A charitable donation is tax-deductible - to the full extent of the law.
- Personal information is never given or sold to other charities.

Donors may contribute at any time, through annual giving, and through their estate planning efforts (bequests, wills, trusts, IRAs). MOAA also offers a very competitive

Continued on page 7

Tax-deductible donation (cont.)

Continued from page 6

Charitable Gift Annuity program for those who want to receive an annual income from their contribution. Participants may donate appreciated securities to eliminate the need to pay higher capital gains taxes.

Contributions are tax deductible under the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. By selecting the most appropriate gift option, donors may maximize tax deductions while helping students achieve their dream of a college education.

For more information on the application or to make a contribution to the MOAA Scholarship Fund, please visit MOAA's website at <http://www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund/> or email edassist@MOAA.org.

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Please accept this gift of \$ _____ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.*

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*TAX EXEMPT UNDER IRS CODE SECTION 501(c)(3).
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<p>Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you <u>do not</u> want your <input type="checkbox"/> name, <input type="checkbox"/> phone number or <input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p> <p>**The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.</p>							
Membership Application/Renewal							
New Members joining in 2015 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**							
<u>Age</u>		<u>Dues</u>		<u>Age</u>		<u>Dues</u>	
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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							