



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 18 No. 7 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JULY 2012

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

Circumstances have prompted the NWFMoa Board of Directors to cancel the July meeting. However, we'll start back up on August 1st on our normal schedule. See you then!



Officers & Directors

PRESIDENT

Ken Wright..... 582-6442
kmwrightjr@gmail.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Watson 543-9224
jeffwatson2011@gmail.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Gayle Norgaard 259-1155
gayleret@cox.net

TREASURER

Dan Cobbs 685-9415
Treasurer@nwfmoa.org

SECRETARY

Scott Berry 582-0839
Directors

Eileen Arpke 678-3446

Bob Garcia 897-3605

Bob Padden 862-9837

Jim Summitt 729-6945

Bill Van Hoesen 225-2957

DEFENDER EDITOR

Scott Berry 582-0839
defender.editor@cox.net

Twenty-third Amendment

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

(Editor's note: Last month's amendment was the twenty-second but erroneously labeled as the twenty-third.)

Happy Fourth of July 2012!

By Ken Wright

I hope you have your plans made to celebrate our 236th Year of Independence. This July 4th lands on the first Wednesday of July which is when we have our normal monthly meeting. ***The Board of Directors decided to cancel the July Meeting*** and wish you all have a great day with family and friends. As our last guest speaker, Peter Bos, noted, a firework show is planned for this day at Harbor Walk in Destin and all are invited to enjoy.

If you missed our last meeting it was good one. Peter Bos, President of Legendary Inc, shared his story and his thoughts on the local real estate

market for the past, present, and future. The membership saw a much different Peter Bos than the one portrayed in the newspapers. I can also assure you he



Scholarship Fund President Frank Glunn recognizes Peter Bos for his contributions.

honors the military and has given a lot of time and money to our causes and many other military causes in the local community. Because of his commitment, the President of the Northwest Florida Military Scholarship Committee presented Peter Bos a Certificate of

Appreciation at the monthly meeting.

Keep your calendars open for the first Wednesday of every month. We have some great speakers planned in the upcoming months and they are Major

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President's Corner

“Semper Paratus”

By Ken Wright

Well, I have moved into the last six months of my Presidency and I have seen it as an honor. One of my responsibilities as the President is to select a nominating committee to seek out the 2013 Officers and Directors. I plan on making my selection for the Chair of this committee in the very near future. This person will in turn put together a committee to take our organization to the next level. If you have interest in serving or you have someone you feel would be a great asset to our organization, then please don't hesitate to send me an email or give me a call. This is another great opportunity to serve this country in another capacity to support our men and women in uniform today and the ones who have served.

I wish to thank all for your kinds words and support you have given me and the rest of the Board with the direction we are taking things. With your support, we have been able to make some great strides forward which we could not have done it without you. One area we must put some additional effort is Membership. It will continue to be a priority for our organization and we must think outside the box in capturing our active duty officers, newly retired officers, and those officers who aren't aware of the local affiliation with our parent organization, MOAA.

Continued on page 4



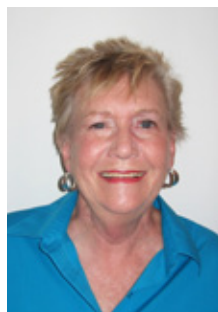
Ken Wright



President Ken Wright “coins” guest speaker Peter Bos.

Membership By Gayle Norgaard

RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT



Gayle Norgaard

We can only recruit new members with your help. Inform potential members of the advantages as a member. Invite them to one of our activities or events. We have more to offer besides the *Defender*, Monthly Breakfast Meetings with guest speakers covering military / community information, and the Annual Military Ball.

In the last year new events and programs have been available for our membership. There are Tours, Symposiums, and Quarterly Officers Call (social hour).

Ambassadors lets make this a record year!

Tours

The 7th Army Special Forces Tour was canceled in May due to unexpected events and will be rescheduled in the fall. Watch for notices in the *Defender* for scheduled programs starting in Sept. 2012.

All suggestions are welcomed for future programs.

Member Spotlight



Tom Churan

➔ No July meeting. See you in August! ➔

Auxiliary Corner

MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) joined other MOAA members from every state in the country to storm Capitol Hill to make Congress aware of the devastating effects proposed DoD budget cuts would have on current service members and veterans and their families.

Proposed TRICARE fee increases, force reductions while the country is at war, and threats of fast-tracked changes in our retirement system without congressional oversight mean breaking promises made to our nation's military. If Congress cannot agree on options to cut an additional \$1 trillion, sequestration — a mandatory cut of that amount — would take place, with 50 percent of the cut coming from DoD. Our current all-volunteer force — the backbone of our nation — could become a hollow force.

Spending must be cut, and that will require sacrifices from all of us. MOAA simply is asking that the military — the 1 percent that already has sacrificed the most — not be the one group bearing a disproportional share of that sacrifice. Specifically, we asked that Congress keep TRICARE fee hikes no larger than COLA increases, with no means testing; ensure force reductions would not affect having service members at home at least two years before another deployment; and fully vet any change in retirement with the entire Congress and not jeopardize the current all-volunteer force.

With the planning, strategies, and efficiency associated with any successful military operation, MOAA members lobbied on the Hill with one strong message: Keep the promises you made to service members when they signed up. They already have paid up-front with their service and sacrifices. Congress must pass a budget with that in mind. Anything less will be a broken promise to those who have assured the continued freedom and existence of our nation. You can count on MOAA to fight for keeping that promise.

(Source: MOAA *The Affiliate*)

Fore!!!!

The less skilled the player, the more likely he is to share his ideas about the golf swing.

TAPS – In Memoriam

Life Members

Grace B. Cooksey, Auxiliary
Maj Franklin G. Owens, USAF (Ret)
Col Thomas W. Feick, Sr., USAF (Ret)
Mary E. Birks, Auxiliary

Died

May 15, 2012
June 3, 2012
June 5, 2012
June 9, 2012

Auxiliary Member

Dottie Roberson

Died

June 10, 2012

Spouse of Member

Warrena C. Neff, spouse of Col Benjamin G. Neff,
USAF (Ret)

Died

May 17, 2012

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.



Happy Fourth of July (cont.)

Continued from page 1

General Merchant in August and Senator Bill Nelson in September. We have some other speakers in the works and of course the annual visit to the Westwood Resort in November and the Opus Choir Event in December.

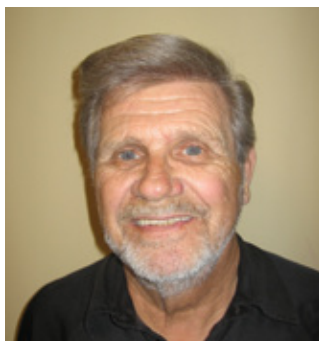
Over the next couple of months I'll be bringing you a short recap of bills that were passed into law during the 2012 Florida Legislative Session.

Cost Sharing by Local Governments - SB 368/

HB 7031. This legislation requires local governments facing financial emergencies to consolidate administrative services with other governmental entities in order to save money for taxpayers. Local government officials who fail to resolve financial emergencies may be suspended by the Governor.

Recognizing and Honoring Veterans - SB's 276, 532, 922, 1080. Designates August 7 of each year as Purple Heart Day, creates Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, grants college credit for military training, creates a "veterans court" for service members and veterans who suffer from mental illness or traumatic brain injury as a result of their military service (subsequent legislation named in honor of Judge and retired Army Brigadier General Patt Maney and a member of NWFMOA), requiring colleges and universities to provide priority course registration for veterans, demonstrating the nation's appreciation for the honorable service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans, and establishing the Purple Heart Memorial Highway in Okaloosa County.

Eliminating the "Fourth Branch of Government" - SB 1312/HB 7055. Thousands of rules and policies have sprung up over the years that intrude into the lives of Floridians and their businesses. Governors of both political parties have attempted to control this "fourth branch of government." This legislation prohibits non-elected state agency employees from generating rules or policies that are not approved by the Governor or Legislature. The bill clarifies that agency heads who are appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor are subject to the direction and supervision of elected officials accountable to the public. (This is the only law passed in the history of the state sponsored by a father-son, senator-representative team.)



Bill Van Hoesen

Continued from page 2

In an effort to continually support our military, the Board of Directors approved donations of \$100.00 to the local Fisher House and \$100.00 to the Veteran Tribute Tower with both presentations being made on June 19, 2012. These are both worthwhile causes we supported and feel honored to be associated with. As noted many times before, the NWFMOA is yours and we want to hear from you on your thoughts and suggestions.

We also have the August Officers Call being planned and details will follow on the date and location. If you have any ideas and suggestions on a venue give me a call. We are looking into the Fort Walton Beach area this time around and hoping to build on it. We see this as an opportunity to give back to the membership and provide an opportunity to bring new members into the organization.

I have received a request from the local Choctaw JROTC for donations in helping some of the less fortunate JROTC with uniform items and equipment. This group has done a great job in supporting our association and I am sure they would be very appreciative in any monies you can donate to their cause. If you are able, you can make a donation to the NWFMOA and annotate in the remarks, "For Choctaw JROTC" and send to our NWFMOA, P. O. Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549.

For those tech savvy folks, I encourage you to visit our FACEBOOK page, which is "Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (NWFMOA)" and interact and share some NWFMOA news to your fellow members and potential members. Also, share this page to all Active, Retired, and Former Officers. This is just another way for the local community to know what we stand for and what you do in this community. You are leaders and will continue to be leaders. Our country needs you more than ever to protect the values we have served to protect.

So I said.....

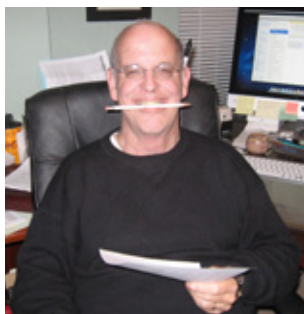
Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Editor's Etchings

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

It's only June and already feeling like the "dog days of summer." I first heard that term from a Fort Walton Beach native when we were stationed in North Dakota about 35 years ago. Despite the relatively dry weather there, the running joke was the mosquito was the state bird.



Scott Berry

Tis the month for vacations which is equally true for Defender contributors. Our Personal Affairs and Chaplain's columns will return next month after a well deserved rest.

I join Ken Wright in banging the drum about finding enthusiastic people to serve on next year's board. It's a wonderful opportunity and when it's all over I guarantee you'll be glad you volunteered. A "willingness to help" is the primary criterion.

I'm always looking for interesting photos to place in the newsletter. Send me one you'd like to see/share. I'm always looking for a great Kodak moment. The fine print: All submissions need to be high print quality and may not get published due to space limitations.

Play safe!

Berry "OUT"



President Ken Wright recognizes Cathy LaValle for her MOAA award-winning web site.



Gene Carroll, Board President for Veterans Tribute Tower Memorial Inc., accepts donation from President Ken Wright.

(Photo by Bob Padden)



Tom Rice, President of Fisher House, accepts donation from President Ken Wright.

(Photo by Bob Padden)

Treasurer's Membership Update

By Dan Cobbs

Welcome to a New Member

Congratulations to Marguerite Godbold for bringing in a new member, her son, Tom Godbold. Please join me in welcoming Tom to the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association.



Dan Cobbs

Important Dates to Remember

- June 6 – D-Day, 1944
- June 14 – Flag Day
- June 14 – U.S. Army Founded, 1775
- June 17 – Father's Day
- June 22 – Pledge of Allegiance, 1942
- July 2 – U.S. Army Air Corps established, 1926
- July 4 – Independence Day

Wasn't It Fun?

By Scott Berry

Remember when you used to play with liquid mercury? I do. I'd press down on a big ball of it and it'd explode into a bunch of smaller balls. Don't remember where I got it from although mercury filled thermometers were the rage back then. I vaguely remember a warning about getting it stuck underneath my fingernail and getting absorbed into my skin but that never dissuaded me. I'm still here to talk about it.

My how things have changed. Mercury is now tied to all sorts of ailments. Mercury content in fish is watched very carefully and common household items now contain mercury--like lightbulbs.

One variety is called Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFLs). These replace the ordinary 60-75-100 watt bulbs but use significantly less energy, last much longer, but are more expensive. They're also not aesthetically attractive like their traditional counterparts unless you using them as a visual aid when explaining the DNA helix.

But I've bought a bunch of them and they're well worth the cost. After two years I finally replaced one in our outside porch light where previously I went through one bulb about every 90 days.

Proper disposal, however, is a problem. The same applies to those long slender fluorescent bulbs. Is there a way around spending \$7 on gas and an hour of my time to transport this \$2 bulb to a disposal site? ABSOLUTELY!

The Customer Service desk at Home Depots will accept them for proper disposal and at no charge--FREE--Nada--Zero. Found this tidbit on the web and verified it with the Home Depot on Mary Esther cutoff. The self-serve receptacle is on your left across from the Returns Desk. For the long fluorescent bulbs, go to the Returns Desk and tell them "Don said I could return these." This is only for 1-2 bulbs at a time. Don doesn't want contractors to use this service.

According to www.energystar.gov, "If every American home replaced just one light bulb with a light bulb that's earned the ENERGY STAR, we would save enough energy to light 3 million homes for a year, save about \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to those from about 800,000 cars."

I am confused about one thing. The replacement of mercury with alcohol in thermometers and like items suggests someone believes mercury is more dangerous to people than alcohol.

What July Fourth Means to Me

By President Ronald Reagan, 1981

There is a legend about the day of our nation's birth in the little hall in Philadelphia, a day on which debate had raged for hours. The men gathered there were honorable men hard-pressed by a king who had flouted the very laws they were willing to obey. Even so, to sign the Declaration of Independence was such an irretrievable act that the walls resounded with the words "treason, the gallows, the headsman's axe," and the issue remained in doubt.

What manner of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists, eleven were merchants and tradesmen, and nine were farmers. They were soft-spoken men of means and education; they were not an unwashed rabble. They had achieved security but valued freedom more. Their stories have not been told nearly enough.

But they sired a nation that grew from sea to shining sea. Five million farms, quiet villages, cities that never sleep, three million square miles of forest, field, mountain and desert, 227 million people with a pedigree that includes the bloodlines of all the world. In recent years, however, I've come to think of that day as more than just the birthday of a nation.

It also commemorates the only true philosophical revolution in all history.

Let the Fourth of July always be a reminder that here in this land, for the first time, it was decided that man is born with certain God-given rights; that government is only a convenience created and managed by the people, with no powers of its own except those voluntarily granted to it by the people.

We sometimes forget that great truth, and we never should.

Happy Fourth of July.

(Editor's note: *Regrettably edited due to space limitations.*)

Coming to a Congress Near You.....

Sequestration: Sequestration is the elephant in the room. Sequestration is the automatic spending and budget cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act passed by Congress last year. If allowed to go forward, the defense budget would be cut by nearly half a trillion dollars over the next nine years — on top of the roughly \$490 billion already scheduled to be cut over the next decade.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said as much as 90 percent of lawmakers in the House and Senate believe sequester would have a devastating effect not only on defense but on the U.S. economy at large.

Levin's counterpart in the House, Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., has introduced legislation (H.R. 3662) that would "pay for the first year of sequestration — deferring the disastrous impacts on the military and creating more time to reach a negotiated deal to find the remaining savings mandated by the Budget Control Act."

Say What?

Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

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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 automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.**

Membership Application/Renewal

New Members joining in 2012
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