



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

Vol. 24 No. 07

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 5 July 2018
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200 Program to follow
Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Judge BG (Ret) Patt Maney, Court Is In Session

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.nwfmoa.org and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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Court is in Session By Scott Berry

We are fortunate to welcome back on of our distinguished members to speak to us

again. We last heard from him about two years ago but much has changed since then. I won't steal his thunder but refresh your memories on his background.

A life member of MOAA, Judge Patt Maney served as an Okaloosa County Court judge from 1989 to May, 2018. A

former infantry officer and later civil affairs officer, he simultaneously continued to serve in the Army Reserve, ultimately retiring as a brigadier general in April, 2007.

The judge has

been actively

Judge Patt Maney

of the bell from the World War II Liberty Ship, USS Okaloosa, also displayed at the airport. For over fifteen years, Judge Maney hosted quarterly visits to the courthouse of foreign officers attending the Air Force Special Operations School. He started the Mental Health Court and later established the Okaloosa Veterans Treatment Court. His pioneering work was codified into law as the T. Patt

> Maney Veterans Treatment Court Act. He initiated the Homeless Veteran Stand Down. The judge successfully advocated for the establishment of a Vet Center in Okaloosa County and sits on the

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involved in supporting local military missions, veterans and military history. He was instrumental in acquiring the UH-1 displayed at the airport in honor of local Viet Nam veterans and Mike Novosel, a local Medal of Honor recipient. He also coordinated the return VA Secretary's Readjustment Advisory Committee as well as the Florida Supreme Court's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. He previously served on the Florida Defense Support Task Force. During his service on the bench, Judge Maney became more

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OFFICERS CALL, DETAILS INSIDE

From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

So much to say that I'll have to break it up into at least two columns.

I attended the annual Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) state convention earlier this month. As conventions go, it



Scott Berry

was probably one of the best I've attended. While the location (Sanibel) was very nice, it was the substance of the meetings and interactions that meant the most to me.

As always, recruiting was a hot topic. While we've greatly improved over the past several years, there's still more that we can do as we're barely holding our own in terms of new members more than offsetting losses. One tool that Cape Canaveral uses is a simple tri-fold that gives the basic information about them. My plan is to have some printed out and distribute them to EVERYONE at the next lunch meeting with the purpose of being shared with a potential member (MOAA records show we have THOUSANDS in the local area) and hopefully the new member count will skyrocket. As one chapter states, "Every chapter member is a member of the membership committee." New members are important for several reasons. There's the obvious reasons but also they bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the chapter. I recently did the math and I've been a board member in various capacities for 11 years-and I think I've only been a member for 12. My point is, that over time everyone gets set in their ways. New members rock the boat which I think is healthy. Finally, as I mentioned at the last meeting, get potential members' attention by asking them if they insure their lives (yes), insure their property (yes), and do they insure their military benefits-NO. MOAA

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members:

David Leutwyler, CAPT, USMC Nancy Ray, Surviving Spouse membership is the best insurance policy that money can buy to preserve our military benefits.

MOAA membership is also a hot button now. It's an important criterion in the Chapter Level of Excellence Award. We've earned the coveted Five Star award for the last several years but are in danger of losing that because of our percentage of chapter members that don't belong to MOAA. I recently sent an email to those who aren't and hopefully we get close to 100%.

Another Officers Call is scheduled for July 12th. Regrettably, the Dockside has closed. We had so much fun there last time and the largest ever turnout. So we're looking at alternatives. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

Berry "OUT"

Cool Off at Officers Call

When: July 12th, 2018.

Where: Shalimar Cheers, 1270 Eglin Pkway, Shalimar.

Time: 1730—??? (Cheers closes at 0100)

Subject: War stories (fact or fiction) and other topics of interest

Fun is mandatory with eating/drinking optional



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.

MOAA's 2018 Advocacy Mission

MOAA's advocacy team is gearing up to protect your health care and retirement benefits, military pay, force levels, wounded warriors, and caregivers.

After an unpredictable 2017, the coming year likely will hold even more surprises on Capitol Hill. Midterm elections are coming in November, and the turnover in Congress could be significant. With partisanship on the rise, the political transition likely will pose interesting challenges.

Our uniformed servicemembers and their families have now endured 16 years of war. Overshadowing the challenges is the constant competition for fewer dollars, as budget caps dominate discussions at every level.

These growing budget pressures prompt efforts to erode service-earned benefits through reduced pay raises, significant changes to housing allowances, and increased health care fees. While MOAA has successfully deflected some of those challenges, we must remain vigilant. Of paramount concern is the proven impact these reductions have on retention and readiness. We're resolved to ensure any reduction to career incentives - essential to the all-volunteer force - is approached with great care.

1. Action item: Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care and avoids disproportional TRICARE fee increases.

Who is affected? All military beneficiaries, including active duty troops and retirees and their family members and others entitled to DoD's health care

The issue: Reforms to the Military Health System must sustain an operationally ready force with a ready medical force. MOAA strongly agrees the military's health care system needs to evolve beyond what it is today into a modern, highperforming, integrated system. However, this interdependent relationship between health care and the readiness-laden infrastructure must not lose sight of either imperative. The health care benefit is a commitment our nation makes to servicemembers and their families, military retirees, and survivors for their years of service. Any reform of TRICARE must take into account the decades of service that constitute a prepaid, in-kind premium worthy of a top-tier health benefit. Over 80 percent of those in Congress have not served in uniform and likely do not understand the toll service has on individuals and military families.

The remedy: Personal stories from constituents have a lot of impact on Capitol Hill. MOAA's members, councils, and

Medal of Honor Recipient Bud Day Posthumously Promoted

From: AF Magazine Daily Report

Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein posthumously promoted former prison of war and Medal of Honor recipient retired Col. Bud Day to brigadier general during a summer concert series at the Air Force Memorial on Friday evening. Goldfein used the stars he had received when he was promoted to brigadier general during the ceremony. "I'd like to recognize all of our Vietnam-era friends and thank them for their service," said Goldfein.

"Tonight we gather to remember those who gave the last measure of devotion, those missing in action, those who endured the harsh and tyrannical treatment at places like the Hanoi Hilton and their families." Sen. John McCain, who was Day's cellmate in captivity in Hanoi, introduced the advancement, which was directed by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act and became official on March 27. Day-who died in July 2013 after a long illness-was flying his F-100 Super Sabre on a dangerous mission over North Vietnam when he was shot down and immediately captured on Aug. 26, 1967. He was the only prisoner to escape from North Vietnam, but was recaptured by the Viet Cong before he could reach safety. He was repatriated on March 14, 1973, and reunited with his wife and four children. Day eventually returned to active flying status and retired from Active Duty in 1977 as one of the most decorated officers in USAF history. For more about Day, read The Strength of Bud Day and Valor: The Long Road to Freedom from Air Force Magazine's archives.





By Chaplain Tom Azar

We gather on the 4th of July to celebrate the 13 colonies claim of independence from England. Our great leaders wrote and ratified the Declaration of Independence at the first Continental Congress. When I was on active duty we would have our parades, church gatherings, BBQ's, concerts and enjoy fireworks out on the marching field. Civilians and military members gathered for hours to celebrate.

My children like so many others still recall our remembrances and today maintain the different and important aspects of this holiday. At the base chapel we would sing great patriotic hymns and pause to remember those who went before us as well as those who served today. We would print out and read in unison Psalm 46

"God is our refuge and strength Always ready to help in times of trouble So we will not fear when earthquakes come And the mountains crumble into the sea Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge! A River brings joy to the city of our God The sacred home of the Most High God dwells in that city; it cannot be destroyed From the very break of day, God will protect it The nations are in chaos. And their kingdoms crumble! God's voice thunders And the earth melts! The Lord of heaven's armies is here among us The God of Israel is our fortress Be still and know that I am God I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world".

I invite all of you to pray and trust God as our military families continue to seek peace.

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.

MOAA's 2018 Advocacy Mission (cont.)

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chapters are a great source of grassroots support. Remind congressional legislators that any TRICARE reform not only must serve to strengthen the interdependent relationships between health care and readiness but also take into account that veterans prepaid for their health benefits through decades of service and sacrifice.

2. Action item: Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.

Who is affected? All active duty currently serving uniformed personnel and their families

The issue: Budget pressures might tempt Congress to reduce military pay raises, widening the gap between military pay and civilian-sector pay and hurting recruiting and retention.

The remedy: We must work to ensure annual military pay raises approved by Congress remain tied to the Employment Cost Index.

3.Action item: Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality-of-life benefits.

Who is affected? All currently serving uniformed personnel and their family members

The issue: Future proposals likely will reduce the value of compensation, to include non-pay and quality-of-life benefits such as the Basic Allowance for Housing, Special Incentive Pays, and commissary, exchange, and morale, welfare, and recreation benefits, harming recruiting and retention.

The remedy: MOAA will continue to oppose proposals to reduce the value of compensation or undermine long-term retention.

4. Action item: Protect military retirement and COLAs. **Who is affected?** All new entrants into military service after Jan. 1, as well as those with less than 12 years of active military service who choose to opt in to the new blended retirement system (BRS)

The issue: Budget constraints might lead to further reductions in the value of the military retirement benefit earned after 20 years of service.

The remedy: Extend the period of government matching funds beyond 26 years to actual retirement. Oppose any efforts to reduce or eliminate the mandatory 12-years-ofservice bonus in the BRS. Continue to seek comprehensive implementation of legislation authorizing concurrent receipt of uniformed service retired pay and VA disability compensation,

MOAA's 2018 Advocacy Mission (cont.)

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to include a heightened focus on Chapter 61 retirees (those medically retired with less than 20 years of service).

5. Action item: Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support.

Who is affected? More than 52,000 servicemembers who were wounded in action, 1,000 battle-injured with major limb amputations, 327,000 traumatic brain injuries, and hundreds of thousands of individuals with service-connected conditions acquired since Sept. 11, 2001

The issue: While DoD, the VA, and the military services continue to maintain programs to care and support our most vulnerable servicemembers, MOAA has seen reductions in resources and funding for these programs.

The remedy: MOAA is committed to moving DoD and the VA to establish a more unified and integrated system of care and benefits that will provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to facilitate the health and well-being of the nation's wounded, ill, and injured. The Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Act of 2017, sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Rep. James Langevin (D-R.I.), is one step in that direction.

6. Action item: End financial penalties to disabled servicemembers.

Who is affected? Veterans with service-connected injuries The issue: Veterans forced into disability retirements before completing a full career (also known as Chapter 61 retirees) are prohibited from receiving military retired pay concurrently with VA disability compensation.

The remedy: Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) and Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) have introduced legislation - S. 66 and H.R. 333, respectively - to expand concurrent receipt for disabled retirees.

7. Action item: End financial penalties to survivors. **Who is affected?** Military survivors

The issue: Military survivors whose sponsors died of serviceconnected causes suffer from the widows tax, a dollar-fordollar offset of DoD's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) from the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). **The remedy:** Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) introduced legislation - S. 339 and H.R. 846, respectively - to eliminate the SBP-DIC widows tax.

8. Action item: Ensure the Guard and Reserve system adequately supports requirements for an operational reserve.

Who is affected? Members of the reserve components and their families

The issue: Members of the Guard and Reserve community have proven their mettle many times over during the past 16 years of armed conflict. Meanwhile, the paradigm for reserve component usage has changed from a strategic reserve to a combat-ready warfighting element incorporated into current and future war planning. As the demands on Guard and Reserve troops have evolved, so has the need for benefits comparable to their active duty counterparts.

The remedy: MOAA will continue to work with Congress to generate and support legislation strengthening legal protections for Guard and Reserve members in their civilian employment and in consumer contracts.

9. The issue: Recruiting and retention of an all-volunteer force require alignment of spouse and family support programs. **Who is affected?** Every servicemember who has or will have a family

The issue: The decision to remain in service often is made around the kitchen table and considers the evolving needs of the entire family, including the employment, educational, and health care needs of non-serving family members; access to child care; and the frequency of relocations.

The remedy: Decrease the military spouse unemployment rate, which remains four to six times higher than the national rate. Increase the synergy between family support and health care systems, along with initiatives to address schools lacking appropriate resources to keep mobile military children on track.

10. Action item: Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve veterans' earned benefits.

Who is affected? There are 21 million veterans in the U.S., with 6.7 million receiving care from the Veterans Health Administration.

The issue: The demand for VA health care and benefits continues to grow, even as the agency has received insufficient funding from Congress and faced frequent proposals for budget cuts.

The remedy: MOAA continues to press for VA health care and benefit system transformation, including investments in technology, financial systems, and infrastructure.

Scholarship Fund by Dave Parisot

For 2018 we were able to increase our scholarship award values from \$1,500 to \$2,000 each plus adding two additional scholarships (from five to seven). We were able to do this primarily due to having two of the scholarships endowed as memorials. Would you like to designate a future scholarship in memory of a loved one so that we may award even more scholarships to local JROTC cadets? If so, please contact Dave Parisot for details and to set it up.

We currently have 28 members in the BG Frank Glunn Century Club. If we can get this membership increased to 40 it will fund two of our scholarships each year. All it takes is a \$100 (minimum) donation to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. Donation forms are in each issue of the Defender Newsletter and on the Scholarship pages of our website at www.NWFMOA.org. Will you be one of the twelve new Century Club members to get us to 40? Donations to the Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

The 50/50 drawing at the June Chapter luncheon was won by Karl Eschmann. Ticket sales were \$201 with \$101 to Karl and \$100 to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who bought tickets.

Recent renewal donor to the BG Frank Glunn Century Club is Rod Gerdes. Thank you, Rod.

Here is the complete list of Gold Century Club members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation since 2015) and BG Frank Glunn Century Club members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2017/2018 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets.

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 Fisher (Nov 2017); Eileen Arpke (Feb 2018); Fred Westfall (April 2018); Clyde Locke (April 2018).

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: May 2017: WWII Vet Bill Colgan (Renewal); August 2017: WWII Vet Sam Lombardo (In memory of Jean Lombardo)

(Renewal); Dr. Roger Riggenbach (In memory of Janice Riggenbach). September 2017: Beryl Brenner (In memory of George Brenner); October 2017: **Doug** Hardin (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2017: Larry Bush (Renewal); Jean Dutton (Renewal); Charlie Brown (Renewal); Chris Beam (Renewal); Dr. Howard Fisher (Renewal); Karl Eschmann (In memory of Col. Bud Day and Kay Litke) (Renewal); December 2017: Dr. Roger Riggenbach (Renewal); Dr. Keith Kulow (In memory of Lt Col David Kulow); Pete Peterzen (Renewal); Les Matheson, Dann Mittiza: January 2018: Fred Boyer (Renewal)(In memory of Mike Flynt); Clyde Locke (Renewal); and WWII Vet Mel Bryant (Renewal); Janet Taylor (Renewal) (In Honor of Major Bill Ryan); Dr. Roger Riggenbach (Renewal) (In memory of Janice Riggenbach). February 2018: Dick Prater (Renewal); Eileen Arpke (Renewal); Nick Marotta (Renewal); Dennis Phillips; Carol Baker (Renewal) (In memory of David Baker); Dave Parisot (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot); March 2018: Al Bills (Renewal). April 2018: Bob Gramm (Renewal); Fred Westfall (Renewal); Clyde Locke (Renewal); May 2018: Dann Matiste (Renewal); Dennis Phillips (Renewal); Larry Bush (Renewal). June 2018: Rod Gerdes (Renewal).

2017/2018 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): December 2017: Gold's Gym of FWB (Inkind).

2017/2018 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): December 2017: Eglin Federal Credit Union (Renewal); January 2018: Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates) (Renewal).)

2017/2018 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): December 2017: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind) (Renewal); Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (Inkind).(Renewal); Rocky Bayou Golf Course (In-kind) (Renewal).

2017/2018 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): October 2017: Eye MD of Niceville November 2017: Gator Lakes Golf Course (In-kind) (Renewal); Mary's Kitchen Restaurant (FWB) (In-kind); Buffalo's Reef Restaurant (FWB) (In-kind); December 2017: Tammy's Journeys of FWB (In-kind) (Renewal); Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café (FWB) (In-kind); Popeve's Louisiana Kitchen of FWB (In-kind); Painting With A Twist of FWB (In-kind); Ernie's Dockside Café of Niceville (In-kind); Destin Party Boat Fishing (In-kind); Connect with Flowers of Shalimar (In-kind); Shalimar

Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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Cheers Pub (In-kind); **The Twisted Grape** of Shalimar (In-kind); **Lee Nissan** (FWB).(In-kind). <u>February 2018</u>: **David Beaulieu, Agent for New York Life Insurance**.

<u>Please support our local businesses that have contributed</u> 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:_____

 $\hfill\square$ 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.

Court is in Session (cont.)

Continued from the front page

focused on jail overcrowding and the relationship of mental health and substance use in our population to crime, cost and public safety. Those insights led him to advocate for a forensic mental health facility for Okaloosa County.

As a reservist, he deployed to Panama, Haiti, Bosnia and Afghanistan. For 17 months, BG Maney served as the Political Sector Coordinator and Senior Advisor to the US Ambassador and held the diplomatic status of attaché. He was wounded in an IED attack and later spent almost 20-months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. His first speech after returning to Okaloosa County was to a TROA/ MOAA meeting.

Caroline, his wife of 47 years, and he have two grown daughters and six grandchildren.



Comment? Don't know who to ask? Email: info@nwfmoa.org We'll get an answer for you.



N.W. Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. P. O. Box 1213 Shalimar, FL 32579



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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
6-100	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

