



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 28 No. 07

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JULY 2022

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur. 7 July 2022
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Col. Gregory Coleman

MAKE A RESERVATION

• RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:
\$14.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at www.nwfmoo.org and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Fred Westfall at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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Vision For Healthcare

By Fred Westfall

Please join us for our July 7th NWFMOA meeting. Our speaker is Colonel Gregory A. Coleman who is the Commander of the 96th Medical Group, 96th Test Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. He serves as the principal medical advisor to the 96th Test Wing Commander and leads more than 1,600 medical professionals providing operational and expeditionary medical and dental capabilities to the 96th Test Wing and its seven tenant wings and wing equivalents.



Col. Gregory Coleman,
96 Med GP/CC

He will speak on the role of the 96th Medical Group which serves a diverse population and sits at the center of the Defense Health Agency's Florida Panhandle Market. Their vision of being the gold standard for operational medicine means they are always ready to deliver great care with great outcomes to America's sons and daughters.

Our July 7th lunch will start with a social gathering at 1130 with the meeting beginning at 1200 followed by lunch. **Please note: due to cost increases at the FWYC, we now must charge \$16.00 for the meal.**

To make reservations click [HERE](#) or go to the [NWFMOA webpage](#) and select

the [Online Reservations](#) link. You may also call me at 850-609-8075 or email me at nwfreservations@gmail.com.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** (no walk-ins please) and must be made by no later than **July 2, 2022**.

Fred Westfall
Secretary

From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

This edition of the Defender is the last one that will be printed on paper. This does not mean that the Defender is going away. Future issues of the Defender will be emailed to each member of NWFMOA who has an email address registered with our Board of Directors. In addition, the Defender will be posted on the NWFMOA website, at www.nwfmoe.org.

The decision to go to an all-digital Defender was made by our Board of Directors during our June meeting, after spending several months seeking input from members of our chapter. By switching to a paperless Defender, we will save about \$4,000 each year – money that can be used for such other things as our annual military ball, recruitment of new members, and community outreach activities such as supporting ROTC scholarships and food gift cards for local military families who need them.

Anyone with questions or concerns about switching to a digital Defender can contact me at (850) 830-8772, at president@nwfmoe.org, or may contact any other member of our Board of Directors. If this presents a genuine hardship for you, please let us know and we may be able to make special arrangements to get you a paper copy if that is really necessary.

On another topic; Recently, I traveled to and from West Palm Beach to represent the NWFMOA at the annual Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) convention. Highlights of the convention included:

Awards:

During the President's Reception on June 9, our chapter was presented with two Five-Star awards for communications; one for our chapter newsletter, the

Defender, and one for our chapter website. Congratulations to Fred Westfall for his management of the website, and to Ken Zepp for his past editing of the of the Defender and his assistance to me in taking over that role earlier this year.

New Officers:

During the convention new FCoC officers were chosen for the coming year. These include:

Northwest Florida Area Vice President: Don Panzenhagan was chosen to take over from Nick Marotta.

FCoC President: Pat Kluever was chosen to take over from Mike Borders.

FCoC Vice President: Steve Bond takes over from Pat Kluever.

Jon Gordon and Marilyn Leehan remain as FCoC Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The state convention also included a presentation by national MOAA President Dana Atkins, who said that Florida is "a Super Bowl team" within MOAA, and that Florida has one of the largest populations of current or retired military personnel in the United States. He thanked the Florida Council of Chapters for recent improvements to its website, databases, etc.

Atkins also outlined some of the recent accomplishments in lobbying activity by MOAA at the national level. These include:

Lobbying Congress to approve a 4.6% military pay raise, which will help military personnel, at least partially, to offset the current 8.5% national rate of inflation.

Improvements to disability compensation for combat-injured military members.

Improvements to mental health care for military personnel and their families.

Improvements to pharmacy access for military families.

Reduction or elimination of some TRICARE fees.

Plans to eliminate the "widows tax" by 2023, thus saving military families an average of \$12,000 per year.

Improvements to privatized housing on military installations.

Extension of time limits on the G.I. Bill.

Improved compensation for military veterans exposed to toxic substances in the line of duty.

Grants for special veteran's courts throughout the nation, to help veterans who run afoul of the law as a result of traumas suffered during their military service.

One of the final activities of the convention was a memorial service in honor of Florida MOAA members who have passed away during the past year.

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

Lewis G Aufdemorte, Jr, Colonel, USAF (RET),
5/13/2022

Betty Couch, Surviving Spouse, 5/30/2022

New Members

Trecia Chedester, Surviving Spouse
Helen Aufdemorte, Surviving Spouse

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

The Viking and Mistys

Looking for a good read in these confusing times-read the Psalms for self-reflective understanding and liberating forward thinking. We just completed the spring class with our 'mature adults' who continue to amaze me every time we unpack and apply it. The Bible is unique. When we read detective, biography, politics, history etc- it's good "information". However, Scripture's purpose is immense: "transformation" of our self into better versions that are pleasing to God, self and neighbor. Our world would get along better.

Undoubtedly we are confronted with challenging situations today. Our military training and experience asks - "what is our standard; what is the truth that can guide us?" The media shoots confusing information through a slanted fire hose, and it's predominately not uplifting.

Closer to home we feel helpless when a friend or family member is facing declining health or major surgery. Chaplains often hear "how can one get through this without a moral compass to navigate through the troubled waters of life? Is my life experience sufficient to guide me with a clear, truthful and courageous direction?"

Enter King David who grappled with similar real life issues centuries ago. With great transparency he offers us wisdom and insights that bolster one's awareness beyond the superficial. He provides us a relevant voice back to our Creator. He highlights the visible "facts" but also the invisible "forces" behind every issue. It is more than seeing the forest from the tree!

The members held the Bible in one hand, and their lived experiences in the other: God is true to His Word that He will protect, provide, sustain and heal those who trust and obey. Having this relationship with our Creator gives a believer not only a response to the current situation but reinforces the "state of being" relationship with God throughout one's lifespan. One acknowledges the "Footprints in the Sand" quote that God never

Most of us were certainly not heroes. But we knew plenty of folks that were. We were just doing a difficult job the best we could, and were simply happy to make it back alive each day and climb on a freedom flight home at the end of our tours. The people who made Misty really unique were the bunch of crazy guys getting shot at every day, getting punched full of holes, doing a disproportional number of nylon let downs, to extended stays as guests of Ho Chi Minh, or not coming home at all. But, also, lest we forget....

It was two people, a small in stature ex-Marine with a badly damaged and twisted body from years of torture, who nevertheless maintained an unbreakable spirit, and indomitable natural leadership and his wife the "Viking", who took on the USAF, the pentagon, the State Department, and the North Vietnamese to bring her husband and other POWs home while being told not to make waves. Bud Day, awarded the Medal of Honor for his unmatched will to escape, survive, and not give in, came home to challenge the weak sisters leading the Military, and those in Congress on their failure to provide promised medical care, to those who had not failed their nation. It was Doris Day who stood up for all the POW wives, set the example for everyone at home, and demonstrated amazing strength of character through it all.

Misty did a tough and difficult job, but it was association with the Air Force's most decorated modern hero and fighter for retiree promised care that put a halo around all of us. I can't adequately express how special being associated with Bud and Dorie will always be to each of us.

Dan Brown -- Misty 143

Continued on page 6

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.



Community Outreach

NWFMOA Receives 5th Consecutive MOAA Foundation Community Grant; Membership Outreach

As follow-up to my article in the May 2022 Defender that our Chapter had been awarded a MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant in the amount of \$4,000 for 2022, I provide the following: Through the generosity of our Chapter members and guests at our May and June luncheons, we have added \$1,300 to the MOAA Foundation grant for a total of \$5,300. This year's grant, like those of 2020 and 2021, will be used to assist young enlisted families in grades E-4 and below by providing them with Commissary gift cards. A hearty "Thank You" to those who donated their cash at the May and June luncheons to support this community outreach project.

This year's grant plus member donations allowed us to purchase 212 gift cards of \$25 each for these young families to purchase food items. As in the past two years, we plan to utilize the services of the First Sergeant Councils at Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and the 7th Special Forces Group (A), plus the Airmen & Family Readiness Centers at Hurlburt Field and Duke Field to identify and distribute the gift cards to the families most in need.

Our grant purpose directly supports one of MOAA's legislative objectives for 2022 of having Congress pass the **Military Hunger Prevention Act**. Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and high inflation. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would **establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA)** for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties. This bill will provide military families with the vital support needed to fight food insecurity. Please take a moment to write or email your Senators and Congressional Representatives about the importance of backing this legislation.

Membership Outreach: At the First Friday Breakfast of the **Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce** on August 5th, our Chapter will have a **'Spotlight Table'**. At our table and with our few minutes of 'stage time', we will provide information on "What and Who is NWFMOA", and our community outreach programs (like that above), and our Scholarship programs. Part of our efforts will be to enroll new members in our Chapter and

MOAA. This monthly FWB Chamber breakfast is usually attended by over 300 local business members, many of whom fit the categories of our membership, e.g., retired or former officers / warrant officers, Reservists, or National Guard. This 'Spotlight Table' is one of the benefits of our Chamber membership and will cost us nothing but the time and efforts of our members who have volunteered to man this station: **Chapter President Mike Griffith; Chapter Vice President Fran Hendricks; Chapter 2nd VP and Membership Chair George Hawks; and, Scholarship Fund President Dave Parisot** (who also functions as our FWB Chamber liaison.



On June 16th, Linda, Supervisor, Store Associates, individually processed 212 Commissary gift cards for NWFMOA Treasurer Lt Col George Colton, USAF, Ret, George paid her \$5,300 for the gift cards in denomination of \$25 each, funded by our 2022 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grand of \$4,000 plus \$1,300 from member donations, The gift cards will be distributed to airmen and soldier families in grades E-4 and below.

? **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.**

Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot

At the May luncheon, we announced two new scholarships at \$4,000 each to junior and/or senior year college student in ROTC who are graduates of one of twelve local high schools in Okaloosa and Walton counties, plus Navarre HS. At our July luncheon, we will be awarding the first scholarship of \$4,000 in the inaugural year of this new program. The scholarship will honor the long and significant military service of one of our own, **Lt Gen LeRoy J. Manor**, USAF, Ret. The scholarship is named “**The Lt Gen LeRoy J. Manor Memorial Scholarship**” is will be awarded to AFROTC Cadet Blayne Johnson, a senior in AFROTC at the University of West Florida. Blayne expects to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the USAF in May 2023.

As most of you are aware, the stock market is down since the first of this year, and, it has impacted the value of our scholarship fund investment portfolio. Don't be alarmed; we are still in a good financial posture. We can enhance our scholarship funding through member donations. Our chapter members who have regularly contributed to the **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** are doing great, and we are extremely grateful for these donations. However, if you are a member who has not regularly donated to the **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, I ask for your support. These donations are tax deductible as we are an IRS 501c(3) non-profit organization. All donations are used to provide college scholarships to LOCAL high school graduates and they must enroll in ROTC in college. Our scholarships are a great investment to “Help Build Future Military Officers and Leaders”. So, if you are able, please consider contributing to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. Thank you.

Donations to the Century Club since my last article are **Dr (Lt Col) Howard and Mrs Irene Fisher**, **Dick Solt**, and an **anonymous** donation in honor of Dr. Howard Fisher. See below for the complete list of Gold Century Club members and the most recent 12-month period of the Century Club.

I suspended the 50/50 raffle at the May and June luncheons so as not to compete with the Chapter's collection of donations for supplementing our **2022 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach grant**, but the 50/50 will be back at our July luncheon. Please be generous with your ticket purchases.

Here is the complete list of **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation) and **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months, along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. All of these donations

are used to fund our JROTC scholarships. [Note: (R) means Renewal of membership.]

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 & Irene Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred Westfall** (Apr 2018); **Clyde Locke** (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (July 2018); **Dennis Phillips** (Aug 2018); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (Oct 2018); **Carol Baker** (Jan 2019); **Ann Adelsperger** (Feb 2019); **Don Litke** (Aug 2019); **Fred Boyer** (Aug 2019). **Dr. Keith Kulow** (Nov 2019); **Al Bills** (Nov. 2019); **Kay Dent** (Nov. 2019); **Dr. Roger Riggensbach** (Dec 2019); **Robert “Pete” Peterzen** (Dec 2019); **Nick Marotta** (Oct 2020); **Kathy & Jesse Bush** (Dec 2020); **Patt & Caroline Maney** (Dec 2020); **Kevin Kirby** (Apr 2021); **Scott & Janet Berry** (May 2021); **Patrick Boab** (Dec. 2021); **Bob Allen** (Feb 2022); **Bobbi Hanson Garcia** (Mar 2022); **Joy Houck** (Mar 2022); **George Colton** (May 2022); **Bob Secest** (May 2022). [Note: 35 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): June 2021: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Sam Lombardo); Aug 2021: **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); **Donald Litke** (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); Anonymous (In memory of David Baker); **Chuck Merkel** (R); Sept 2021: **Paul & Kathy Gerth** (In memory of Larry and Ann Shingler); **Doug Hardin** (R) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk); **George Colton** (R) (In memory of Larry and Ann Shingler); and, **Kevin Kirby** (R). Oct 2021: **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Howard & Irene Fisher** (R); **Craig Miller** (R); Nov 2021: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Dick Prater); **Bob Gramm** (R); **Joe Stevens** (R); **Jesse & Kathy Bush** (R); **B/G Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks**; **Dan Brown** (R); **Robert ‘Pete’ Peterzen** (R); **Jeff Watson** (R); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (R) (In memory of B/Gen George “Bud” Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); Dec. 2021: **Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Christine Hallion** (R); **Nick Marotta** (R); **Larry Tashlik** (R); **Dennis Phillips** (R); **Chris Beam** (R); **Patrick Boab** (R); **Larry Bush** (R), and **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); Jan. 2022: **Kevin Kirby** (R); **Dave Davis** (In memory of B/G Bud Day); **Fred Westfall** (R); Feb 2022: **Rod Gerdes** (R); **Bob Allen**; **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Col. Bob Garcia).; Mar. 2022: **Bobbi Hanson Garcia** (In memory of Col. Bob Garcia); **Dan Cobb** (In memory of Col. Gordon Thomas); **Joy Houck** (R) (In memory of Maj. Stanley Houck); Apr 2022: **B/G Gen Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks** (R); May 2022: **George**

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Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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Colton (R); Bob Secrest (R); Mark Lombardo (In memory of LTC Sam Lombardo); Larry Bush (R); June 2022: Dr. Howard and Mrs Irene Fisher (R); Anonymous (In honor of Dr Howard Fisher); Dick Solt (R);

2021 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): Dec. 2021: Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass); Eglin Federal Credit Union; Step One Automotive Group; Residence Inn & Suites by Marriott of FWB (In-kind); TownePlace Suites by Marriott of FWB (In-kind). **2021 Business Silver Donors** (\$250 - \$499): Dec 2021: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind); Rocky Bayou Golf Club (In-kind); Gator Lakes Golf Course (In-kind); Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind) **2021 Business Bronze Donors** (\$100 - \$249): May 2021: Eye MD of Niceville (R); Nov 2021: Lee Nissan of FWB; Buffalo's Reef of FWB (in-kind); Mary's Kitchen of FWB (in-kind); Painting With a Twist of FWB (in-kind); Repeat Street Thrift Store of FWB (in-kind); Dec 2021: Tammy's Journeys of FWB (In-kind); Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen of FWB (In-kind); Shalimar Cheers Pub (In-kind).

Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund: "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 listed in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club). Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address _____

(Donation is tax deductible as allowable by law.)

This gift is in honor of: _____

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Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund** and mail to:

Dave Parisot, President, 56 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

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Chaplain's Corner (cont.)

Continued from page 3

abandons but carries us in the most arduous times. When we went to war we knew we had our buddies beside us and God above, watching over us. We held on to the bigger assurances.

Then our faith and beliefs become manifest in our behavior. Our creed is evident in our character. Biblical doctrines demonstrated in our deeds. The faithful walk not in a temporal worldly light but in the heavenly light. One is not alone as we navigate this baffling world.

In counseling sessions with individuals who have endured trials and difficulties, they talk about a person of faith who walked beside them through "the valley of the shadow of death." America needs more individuals of light in order to choose wisely when facing critical decisions. Lawmakers appear smart, but are their rulings morally and Biblically correct? Good citizens seek a nobler touchstone.

My wife and I enjoy visiting stained glass cathedrals and beautiful stations of the cross that show that even Jesus Christ suffered. Every human suffers; it's part of life. The survivors are the ones that have heaven's knowledge and wisdom, both of which steer and provide hope, courage and peace. So what's your summer reading consist of?

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.



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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 for the local to national levels.

Membership Application/ Renewal

New Members joining this year receive membership through December 31 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
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 Rank Service MOAA Member Number

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This application is for:

Life Member New Member Renewal Surviving Spouse Other _____

Make Checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn. Inc. Check here is you do not want your name, phone number, or email address listed in the 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

