



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 22 No. 06

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JUNE 2016

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 2 June 2016

Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow

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

Program: John Hofstad,
County Administrator

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 nwreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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Come and Meet Okaloosa County Administrator John Hofstad

The website for Okaloosa County begins as follows: "Connecting Communities since 1915. Okaloosa became the 52nd county in Florida on September 7, 1915, and was created from parts of Santa Rosa and Walton Counties. The purpose of Okaloosa County Government is to be responsive to citizens in providing an appropriate level of accessible services on a cost effective basis.

Critical County values include the following: continual improvement of infrastructure; health, safety, and well-being of the citizens; preservation of natural resources; responsible economic development; leadership; and stewardship."

At our meeting on June 2nd, we will hear from County Administrator John Hofstad. His background and many responsibilities are described here. Please come and have an opportunity to interact with him. Bring your questions, too.

Prior to his current selection as the county administrator, John Hofstad served as the Okaloosa County Public Works Director for about five years and as the interim county administrator on two occasions. Directing the largest department within the county has prepared him for leading Okaloosa County. In addition to leading the Public Works Department, consisting

of Road and Bridge, Parks, Solid Waste, Recycling, Mosquito Control, Artificial Reef and Engineering divisions, he also administered four additional departments: Agricultural Extension Office, Facilities Maintenance, Fleet Operations, and Information Systems.

Mr. Hofstad has been a resident of

Okaloosa County most of his life and has nearly 30 years experience in local government service, which includes 10 years with the City of Mary Esther and 14 years with the City of Fort Walton Beach, prior to his employment with Okaloosa County. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management



John Hofstad

from The University of West Florida and a Graduate Certificate in Florida City and County Management from the Askew School of Public Policy and Administration at Florida State University.

Mr. Hofstad manages the day-to-day operations of all departments under the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners. Okaloosa County government consists of departments and constitutional officers within three categories:

From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

It never seems like things slow down! Just when I think there'll be a break in the NWFMOA action, more pops up. This month is no exception.

The most important event for me, other than our monthly meeting of course, was the Florida Council's annual state convention in Lakeland in mid-April. New experiences started as soon as we left home.

Have you ever been to Lakeland? Neither had I. Once we got off the interstate it was about another 1 1/2 - 2 hours of back and two lane roads. Some didn't allow commercial vehicles. Hmmmm. However, I'm not complaining. It was much more scenic than I-10 and we drove by many plant nurseries and vegetable farms. The route was the gospel according to Google and on the big map appeared to be a straight shot in contrast to taking the interstate too far to the east or west. Definitely an enjoyable trip and filled with surprises but isn't that what traveling is all about?

The presentations were again a good reminder to me of where MOAA stands. In hindsight, I've found it difficult to keep the big picture as briefed when I'm toiling in the trenches. For example, we're the sixth largest chapter in the state. Didn't think we'd rate that high. Also, MOAA is holding its own on membership—especially compared to the service-unique military organizations like AFA and AUSA. We have



Scott Berry

about 390,000 members—more than the other associations combined—and spread out over 400+ chapters. Since 2015 there have been 2760 new members. While every organization loses members, MOAA's losses aren't dramatic or of great concern.

The presentation also highlighted the importance of legislative activism. If you remember, that was the "A" in my "M.A.P." Advocacy. We're fortunate to have a council legislative chair who is very knowledgeable. All we have to do is send a few email or letters. As I've said many times in several forums, these emails/letter/phone calls do make a difference.

I left the convention with a belief that MOAA is healthy and adhering to its publicly stated purpose. Also, the Florida Council is active. Its members really want to make a difference and are investing the time and effort to make that happen. Yes, we can always do more or do better, but we ain't doing a bad job right now.

You're part of that. I thank you for your past help and look forward to more in the future.

Berry "OUT"

NWFMOA Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

Please join us at the flagpole at the Beal Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach at 11:00AM on May 30th, **Memorial Day**, when the names of our deceased members from the past year will be read. This is an opportunity to give a 'final salute' to our Chapter members.

On Monday evening, June 6th, we will again have a float entry in the **Captain Billy Bowlegs 'torch light' parade** in Fort Walton Beach. The parade starts at 7:00PM on Eglin Parkway between First St and K-Mart. Our NWFMOA float will have chapter member veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars. Our participants in last year's parade had a great time tossing candy to the thousands of children along the parade route. The parade crowd often broke out with applause for our veterans on the float. To be on the float or one of four safety walkers required, please contact Dave Parisot at dparisot@cox.net or by phone at 613-6545.

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members::

Shawn Casey, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Robert Gramm, Col, USAF (Ret)
Wayne Pullen, Col, USAF (Ret)
Michael Ramirez, LTC, USA
William (Robbie) Roberts, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Larry D. Tashlik, LTC, USA
Mark Winstel, Jr., Col, USAF (Ret)
Ken Zepp

The Army's Birthday: 14 June 1775

Surviving Spouse Corner



When the American Revolution broke out, the rebellious colonies did not possess an army in the modern sense. Rather, the revolutionaries fielded an amateur force of colonial troops, cobbled together from various New England militia companies. They had no unified chain of command, and although Artemas Ward of Massachusetts exercised authority by informal agreement, officers from other colonies were not obligated to obey his orders. The American volunteers were led, equipped, armed, paid for, and supported by the colonies from which they were raised.

In the spring of 1775, this “army” was about to confront British troops near Boston, Massachusetts. The revolutionaries had to re-organize their forces quickly if they were to stand a chance against Britain’s seasoned professionals. Recognizing the need to enlist the support of all of the American seaboard colonies, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress appealed to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia to assume authority for the New England army. Reportedly, at John Adams’ request, Congress voted to “adopt” the Boston troops on June 14, although there is no written record of this decision. Also on this day, Congress resolved to form a committee “to bring in a draft of rules and regulations for the government of the Army,” and voted \$2,000,000 to support the forces around Boston, and those at New York City. Moreover, Congress authorized the formation of ten companies of expert riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, which were directed to march to Boston to support the New England militia.

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Protect Yourself From Fraud

By Anne Hartline,
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Many dishonest people work diligently every day to gather information illegally to steal identities and money. To help protect yourself from fraud, be aware: Do not open suspicious emails, carefully read emails from agencies and businesses that appear to be legitimate, and cautiously answer telephone calls from unknown individuals. In addition, do not deposit checks that come in the mail from unfamiliar sources. USAA, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and banks are three of the most commonly targeted sources for scams. Some clever thieves now can show USAA, IRS, and the names of banks on the telephone caller ID and send emails that look authentic. In 2014, USAA shut down 6,724 fraudulent websites. According to the Federal Trade Commission, from 2013 to 2014, IRS scams increased by 20 percent, with more than 54,000 Americans being targeted in 2014. In addition, almost daily, media reports scams involving banks and bogus checks.

USAA advises that legitimate communications from their company always will have a “USAA Security Zone” stamp. Look for your name and the last four digits of your member number. Like all security cautions from any source that might be compromised, USAA directs that you should not reply to any email with personal information, such as passwords, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or bank account numbers. If you receive suspicious communications from USAA, contact them at (877) 762-7256 or forward suspicious email communications to abuse@usaa.com.

Fraudulent IRS agents can be quite intimidating. They call and state back taxes are owed and say the only way to avoid jail is to pay back taxes and fines immediately. Then they offer various methods of transferring the money. Sometimes the con artists take a positive approach, telling people they have a refund due and then asking for personal information. If you receive a suspicious IRS call, assume it is a scam. The IRS does not call people about back taxes or refunds; you will receive notice via a mailed letter. The IRS also does not solicit information by email, text, or social media. If you are contacted by phone, report the incident to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at (800) 366-4484. If you are contacted by email, forward the message directly to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.

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The History Of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania

Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**.



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CALL OF THE DESERT By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

My buddies are cleaning sand from their khaki boots
As commanders gather reports from their warriors
Women from Wyoming and gents from Georgia

Flags fly from their flight line towers and buried bunkers
Collaborative exchanges recharge us for another engagement
These unknowns have risen to nobleness because of their pledge

Blue to khaki collars, suits to under armor, sandals to steel shoes
They are parents shopkeepers, farmers mechanics sales workers
Offering deep sighing prayers every morning and night
They call secretly on the real Almighty for protection and strength

No one knows these profound prayers but God and God alone
Heaven's heart responds with an enveloping love
Homeward bound they will be, theirs and His, flag draped
To an hour and place potted by the Prince of Peace



Continued from page 3

George Washington received his appointment as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army the next day, and formally took command at Boston on July 3, 1775.

John R. Maass

Historian

US Army Center of Military History



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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Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

At our May luncheon meeting we awarded four scholarships totaling \$7,500 for 2016. Our 2-year scholarship of \$3,000 went to Cadet Isaac Kimbrell of Baker High School. He plans to attend the University of West Florida (UWF) with a major in cybersecurity. We presented scholarships of \$1,500 each to Cadet Jacob Barnes of Niceville H.S. (UWF, mechanical engineering); Cadet Cole Briggs of Baker H.S. (Purdue University, aeronautical engineering); and, Cadet Nathakan "James" Welaha of Choctawhatchee H.S. (University of South Florida, biomedical sciences). Our congratulations and sincerest wishes for success in their college studies and ROTC program to all of the scholarship awardees.

This year's award for Choctawhatchee is named the "NWFMOA Dottie Ryan Memorial Scholarship" in memory of Chapter member Bill Ryan's devoted wife who passed away last year. Their three children attended Choctawhatchee. Their son (from Virginia) and one of their daughters (from Minnesota) attended the May luncheon along with Bill. Two of our county high school JROTC Chief Instructors, Lt Col Mike Ramirez, U.S. Army, Ret., of Baker H.S. and Major Scott Bates, USAF, Ret., of Choctawhatchee H.S., also attended the luncheon.

I extend my personal thanks to this year's Scholarship Fund Board of Directors and Committee: Earnestine Carswell (Committee Chair); George Colton; Bob Allen; Les Matheson; and Fred Westfall.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing at our May luncheon was Eileen Arpke, with \$79 going to the Scholarship Fund. This was our largest 50/50 raffle in recent history. Thank you to all ticket buyers. Just prior to the luncheon, our guest speaker, Florida Senator Don Gaetz "emptied his wallet" with a contribution of \$74 to the Fund. Thank you Senator Gaetz.

Here's the complete list of Century Club members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2015/2016 along with our Business Donors.

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: May 2015:

Samuel Lombardo. July 2015: **Beryl Brenner.**

August 2015: **Dr. Howard Fisher; Tom Churan.**

October 2015: **Frederick Rall.** November 2015:

Dick Prater. December 2015: **Carol Baker; Karl Eschmann.** January 2016: **Clyde Locke (Renewal); Dan Brown (Renewal).**

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Surviving Spouse (cont.)

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Wells Fargo has excellent information on their website regarding bank fraud and scams, including tips on how to protect yourself, such as:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do your homework before cashing checks received in the mail from unknown sources. Call the bank, and independently research an individual, company, or check to verify legitimacy.
- If you receive an email asking for money, forward it to your local police department.
- Shred documents containing personal or financial information before discarding. Many fraud and identity theft incidents happen as a result of mail and garbage theft.
- Promptly retrieve incoming mail, and place outgoing mail with financial information in a U.S. Postal Service mailbox, instead of your home mailbox.
- Consider paperless options for your bills and financial information.

Remember, be alert and question any suspicious communication to help protect yourself from fraud and scams.

John Hofstad (cont.)

Continued from the front page

Public Safety:

Corrections, Inspections, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, Sheriff

Essential Services:

Airports, Constitutional offices, Extension Services, Facilities Maintenance, Growth Management, Information Systems, Judicial, Health Dept., Transit (WAVE bus), Public Works, Water & Sewer

Quality of Life:

Museums, Libraries, Parks, Tourist Development Dept., Veterans Services

Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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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.

2015 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation):
April/November 2015: Eglin Federal Credit Union

2015 Business Gold Donors (\$500 minimum donation):
April 2015: ZT Motors of Fort Walton Beach; Resort Quest Vacation Rentals; Michles & Booth Law Firm.
May 2015: Wild Willy's Adventure Zone (In-kind).

2015 Business Silver Donor (\$250 - \$499):
April 2015: Holiday Inn Resort (In-kind);
November 2015: Marriott Town Place Suites (In-kind);
May/December 2015: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind);
December 2015: Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind).

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.

2015 Business Bronze Donor (\$100 - \$249):

November 2015: Merrill Lynch Wealth Management;
May/December 2015: Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café (In-kind); Tammy's Journeys (In-kind); Mary's Kitchen (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."



Three of the four 2016 NWFMOA Scholarship winners. From left, Dave Parisot, President of NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc, Cadet Jacob Barnes, Cadet Cole Briggs, Cadet Isaac Kimbrell, and Earnestine Carswell, 2016 Scholarship Committee Chair. Not present due to illness was Cadet Nathakan Welaha.

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

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