



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 23 No. 06

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JUNE 2017

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 1 June 2017
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
 Program to follow
Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Operation IVORY COAST
 or Operation KINGPIN
 Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, Jr.

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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Where Were You On Nov 21, 1970?

By Scott Berry

I was in high school so I was rather oblivious to the drama that was playing out half a world away. The date marks the execution of Operation IVORY COAST or Operation KINGPIN, depending on who you ask, which had as one objective the release of American POWs in North Vietnam prisons. The fact that the camp was vacant is the point which is the center of most stories.

You'll hear differently. But it was far more than a rescue attempt and we're fortunate to have a member of our chapter, Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, Jr.,

who actually planned the entire operation. The photo you see is that of (a much younger) Gen Manor giving an outbrief of the mission to President Nixon. He has an excellent descriptive slide presentation to augment his remarks.

It'd be pure hubris for me to summarize Gen Manor's presentation, so I won't. I will say that hearing his remarks will be a very unique opportunity that very few have ever heard—much less from the person who planned it. Searching for

this subject on the internet will reveal a wide range of opinions and much less fact. Wikipedia officially terms the mission as a failure. Without stealing Gen Manor's thunder, I'll just say that he has a different perspective.

Gen Manor has given this presentation many times in the past and especially at military schools. It normally takes

about two hours. He and I talked at some length about how much to abbreviate and finally agreed that two monthly meetings presentations is the minimum amount of time



necessary to do justice to the subject. Anything less would be a cursory summary of events with no time for insight into planning and strategy. So... ..I expect our meeting for June and July will run a little longer than normal so plan on that in advance. Those who still work and are limited to a fixed period for lunch may well have to leave early and we understand. We just didn't want to condense the description of the operation to a point that it becomes meaningless.

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From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry



Greetings!

Again? Already? As the Defender editor will tell you, the submission date for my column always seems to sneak up on me. I'm blessed with the ability to put some incoherent thoughts onto paper in fairly short order that then appear coherent—or so I'm told.



Scott Berry

The year 2017 is full of important anniversaries. EFCU and the Fort Walton Chamber of Commerce had a big blowout last month to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid. The beginning of World War I was 100 years ago last month as well. And last but not least, Janet and I celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in June. That didn't get quite the same amount of publicity but nevertheless an important accomplishment (and please quote me on that).

Part of the Doolittle celebration was recognizing the remaining World War II vets of our chapter. We're honored to have eight of them: Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, Jr, Lt Gen Kelly Burke, Col Mel Bryant, Col Bill Colgan, Col Marv Yeager, Lt Col Rocky Heckroth, LTC Sam Lombardo, and Maj Gene Mitchell. We invited all of them to be our guests for the June meeting as a very small way of saying "thank you" and recognizing their service.

And now for what's in the future. There is the annual Memorial Day service at Beal Cemetery and also the Billy

Continued on page 5

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members

Dann D. Mattiza, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Redocch E. Williams, Lt Col, USAF

In Memoriam

Nancy Garcia, spouse of
Col Bob Garcia

By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR WEALTH

Col Phil was 51-years-old and in the prime of his work and family life. He was TDY to oversee repair of hi-tech equipment. He flew 3000 miles and worked 12 to 14 hours a day till he completed the mission.

One evening he went to dinner with his two partners and then to the fitness center to play basketball. They had a good workout, letting go of a week of job stress. When they all went to take a shower Phil suddenly collapsed to the floor. One friend tried to give him CPR, while the other called 911.

The paramedics were unable to revive him. They transported him to the hospital, but further efforts were futile. I was part of the casualty notification team back in the states to inform his wife and three children that the father husband they kissed good-bye 5 days ago had a massive heart attack.

I called his two friends who were still in shock and disbelief. "We were shooting hoops, cutting up and having a good time; I still feel it's all surreal." The other was very angry: "How could this happen to my good friend so dedicated to his family, church and country?"

It is easy to believe we are all in the best of shape and need little preparation before embarking on each new day. Medical science can observe your physical health to a limited degree, counselors your mental well being yet many ignore the critical dimensions of spiritual and emotional health. I like millions believe there is more to life than what we see with our physical eyes—now and after we die. So ask many— "Are you involved in a

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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.

NWFMOA Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

Firstly, a belated **Happy Mother's Day** to all of the mothers and grandmothers within our NWFMOA community. You are the heart and soul of the family unit.

Memorial Day will be held on May 29th this year. Over the past year (2016) and the start of 2017, NWFMOA has been saddened by the loss of fourteen members and spouses as follows: **Gerald Moore**, Col, USAF (1/9/16); **Mrs. Margaret Shook**, AUX (3/9/16); **Mrs. Chong Parisot** (3/28/16); **Mrs. Patricia Colsch**, AUX (4/13/16); **Janeral Holley**, Lt Col, USAF (5/30/16); **Jack Gardner**, Col, USA (6/3/16); **Robert Padden**, Major, USAF (6/7/16); **Matthew Loar**, Lt Col, USAF (7/1/16); **Dennis Skelly**, Lt Col, USA (9/25/16); **James Heavener**, Lt Col, USAF (9/28/16); **Jack Gatewood**, Col, USAF (11/6/16); **Marie Wagner**, Lt Col, USAF (12/14/16); **Mrs. Kay Litke** (3/10/17); and, **Mrs. Nancy Garcia** (4/28/17). The names of these veterans and spouses will be read at the Memorial Day services at 11:00AM at the Beal Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach. If you are in attendance, please take a flower from the 'bucket' and join us at the flagpole for a 'salute of remembrance' when the NWFMOA organization is called. The Fort Walton Beach JROTC will decorate over 700 veterans' gravesites with American flags prior to the service.

Other local Memorial Day services will be held in Niceville, Destin, and Crestview. NWFMOA member (and Director) **Lt Col Bob Allen** will be the main speaker at the Crestview services. Please check local news media for times and locations.

On a lighter note, the **62nd annual Billy Bowlegs Torchlight** Parade will be held on Monday, June 5th in Fort Walton Beach. NWFMOA will again participate with a decorated float (our 3rd year). This is a fun event. If you would like to participate as a float rider or walker, please let me know at dparisot@cox.net or by phone at 613-6545. Our group will muster at 6:00PM on June 5th; exact location to be announced. So far, volunteers are **Ken Zepp**, **Nick Marotta**, **Fred Westfall**, and **Dave Parisot**.



Flowers surrounding the flagpole at the 2016 Memorial Day service at Beal Cemetery.

The Army's Birthday: 14 June 1775

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

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vibrant religious worship and discipling church; do you practice spiritual disciplines that deepen your vertical and horizontal relationships; are you ready to meet God when the unexpected time comes?"

Chaplains spend much time with people on the final frontier I call death. Phil's passing caused a great world of pain for the surviving spouse, children and siblings. Tomorrow is never promised. No one is invincible or indestructible. Preparing for the unexpected requires that we pay great attention daily to the important people in our life--family, friends and God. This solitary life is no dress rehearsal! Take time to enjoy the vital relationships and be in the best shape you can --spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically and socially. Remember, your health is your wealth.

Army's Birthday (cont.)

Continued from page 3

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.

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.

Gen William L. Kirk, USAF (Ret)

Gen. William Kirk, one of the USAF leaders credited as a "father" of the Aggressors and the Red Flag exercise, commander of US Air Forces Europe, a two-time MiG killer, and a noted expert in electronic warfare, died April 26 in the local area. He was not a chapter member.

By Gail Joyce, Surviving Spouse
Advisory Committee chair

What does Memorial Day mean to you? For many, it's the unofficial beginning of summer; a day for family gatherings, baseball games, and barbecues. But for others — especially those who have served in the military and their families — it's a time to pause and remember why we celebrate this very special day.

Across the nation, MOAA members will support efforts marking this day of remembrance by laying wreaths, giving speeches, playing taps, marching in parades, participating in flag ceremonies, and conducting memorial services to pay tribute to our nation's men and women who fell in the line of duty. But I, like many, don't need Memorial Day to serve as a reminder of the price we pay when we put our young people in harm's way. My son, James Casey Joyce, a U.S. Army Ranger, died Oct. 3, 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia, in the worst firefight since Vietnam. That day, 18 young men lost their lives; six were from Casey's unit, the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, from Fort Benning, Ga. Casey was 24 and my youngest. For me, Memorial Day is my opportunity to remind everyone in every way I can — speaking at events, writing about my son, giving interviews, and working on the Field of Flags in Granbury, Texas — about the five Rangers (Jim Cavaco, Richard Kowalewski, Dominique Pilla, Lorenzo Ruiz, and Jamie Smith) who died in combat along with Casey, and all those who have died in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan (6,828 at last count).

All across the U.S. on Memorial Day, our grateful nation comes together to honor these men and women. More than 1 million have fallen in combat during the 241-year history of our nation. We should all pause to remember them and honor their selfless sacrifice.

In Granbury, we remember and honor our military through A Field of Flags. On Highway 377, 1,000 flags will be waving in the breeze, each representing an individual, unit, or branch of service. This Memorial Day, spend some special time with your loved ones, but take time to reflect on our freedoms that our husbands, wives, sons, and daughters have died to protect.

President's Pen (cont.)

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Bowlegs Torchlight Parade which we've been part of for the past several years. As of this writing, Dave Parisot is still looking for people to act as safety walkers for our "float." I'm been part of that in the past and it's very reassuring to see the public's response to our entry.

All of this positive recognition of veterans is certainly deserved and appreciated but also is in stark contrast to the "welcome home" that Vietnams vets got in the 60s and 70s. While I was too young to be one of them, I did have a glimpse into how horribly they were treated and heard from others firsthand that their service was certainly not appreciated.

In light of that, the presentation for June will bring back many of those memories. Gen Manor's comments will show what positive actions were taken, albeit by the military itself, to bolster pride in wearing the uniform. I also can't avoid parallels to the Doolittle Raid. Both raids didn't accomplish any military gains in the traditional sense but certainly bolstered public opinion and were rallying cries to those still in harm's way.

So there's still time to be part of the many military-related celebrations this month. Try and be part of at least one! And Gen Manor's presentations will be a rare insight into an important event during the Vietnam War, so if you miss it you can't say you weren't notified.

Berry "OUT"

Legislative Liaison

by Dave Parisot

Follow-Up on Proposed Florida Sales Tax Holiday for Veterans

In the March Defender I wrote about three bills that had been filed in the Florida House and Senate to provide a "**sales tax holiday**" for Veterans. The bills proposed varying numbers of days and types of purchases that would have been exempt from sales taxes. This year's State legislative session ended on May 8th with none of these bills for veterans being adopted; they 'fizzled on the vine'. There were two sales tax exemption bills adopted for hurricane preparedness purchases (3 days) and for 'back-to-school' purchases (3 days). Check local media for implementation dates.

Eyes are now focused on the Florida Governor's office in regard to the **2017 state budget** which was finally passed by the Legislature on May 8th. Will Governor Scott veto the entire budget, thereby forcing a special session of the Legislature? Will the Governor use his 'line item veto powers' to cut spending in the budget, and, if so, to what level? Again, stay tuned to local news reports. Florida is one of 46 states with the line item veto. The six states without it are Rhode Island, Nevada, Indiana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

As to **medical marijuana**, the Florida House and Senate could not reach agreement on rules to implement last year's Amendment 2 passage. Thus, these regulations will now defer to State health agencies through their lengthy 'rule-making process' with multiple postings and public meetings to reach agreement. One issue here is that "rules" do not carry the weight of statutes implemented by the Legislature and Governor. The Legislature could, however, call a special session to address this issue.

Where Were You (cont.)

Continued from page 1

In the several years I've been associated with the chapter, I can't think of another presentation that excites me more. Given my "youth," this will bring history into real life. I'm looking forward to it. I encourage you to join me for this rare event.

Now and Always
We'll be There.



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Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

What a sea of uniforms at our May luncheon with our JROTC cadet scholarship winners, honor guard, and the Senior Instructors of Baker, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, and Choctawhatchee high schools in attendance. The pride of these cadets was obvious in their appearance and decorum.

For 2017, NWFMOA awarded four scholarships totaling \$7,500 as follows:

1. **Cadet Brigitte Trombotta** of Choctawhatchee JROTC (\$1,500) who plans to attend the University of West Florida with a major in Business Administration.
2. **Cadet Jodie Welch** of Baker JROTC (\$1,500) who plans to attend UWF with a major in Electrical Engineering. (Note: Jodie was awarded her Associate of Arts degree from NWFSC on May 5th, before her high school graduation. Congratulations, Jodie.)
3. **Cadet Seth Sullivant** of Fort Walton Beach JROTC (\$1,500) who plans to attend UWF with a major in Mechanical Engineering.
4. **Cadet Tristan Lennard** of Crestview JROTC (\$3,000) who plans to attend the University of South Florida with a major in Civil Engineering. Tristan's scholarship is for \$1,500 per year for two years.

All of our scholarship winners will also be enrolling in their college's ROTC program. Congratulations to all and our best wishes with your college studies and, hopefully, a military career as officers in our armed forces.

My special thanks to **Jean Dutton** for providing photography services for this event. (See more photos on our website of www.NWFMOA.org) I also want to thank the JROTC instructors and parents of the cadets who were able to attend the May luncheon in support of the cadets. And, my special thanks to the members of our NWFMOA Chapter for your financial support of the Scholarship Program through your donations to the Century Club and various raffles throughout the year. Also, my thanks to the local businesses for their donations to our Scholarship Program. Without these contributions we would not be able to provide scholarships.

Our 50/50 raffle at the May luncheon had \$156 in ticket sales and was won by **Clyde Locke** who graciously donated his winnings of \$78 to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks, Clyde, and to all who bought tickets for this scholarship fundraiser. Century Club donors in April were **Eileen Arpke, Don Litke, Bob Gramm, Bill Colgan, and Scott Berry**. Thank you.

Here's 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 2016/2017 along with our Business Donors. Your support is greatly appreciated. :

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017).

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: May 2016: **Kristine Sams**. June 2016: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal); July 2016: **Beryl Brenner** (Renewal); August 2016: **Tom Churan** (Renewal); October 2016: **Ruth Cullen** (in memory of William Cullen) (Renewal); **John Feldman** (Renewal); November 2016: **Pete Peterzen; Jean Dutton; Howard Fisher** (Renewal); December 2016: **Karl Eschmann** (in memory of Col. Bud Day) (Renewal); **Frederick Rall** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); January 2017: **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Dick Prater** (Renewal); February 2017: **Carol Baker** (in memory of David Baker) (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Al Bills; Dave Parisot** (in memory of Chong Parisot) (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); March 2017: **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **Rod Gerdes; Nick Marotta; Janet Taylor** (In honor of Bill Ryan); April 2017: **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Don Litke** (in memory of Kay Litke); **Bob Gramm; Bill Colgan** (Renewal); **Scott Berry**.

2016/2017 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): December 2016: **Wyndham Vacation Resorts** (In-kind).

2017 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): January 2017: **Merrill Lynch** (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates)

2016/2017 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2016: **Eglin Federal Credit Union; December 2016:** **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club** (In-kind); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind).

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Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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2016/2017 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249):
November 2016: Gator Lakes Golf Course; December 2016: Tammy's Journeys (In-kind); Rocky Bayou Golf Course (In-kind); Dr. Wayne Pullen (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."



The Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (NWFMOA) awarded four college scholarships totaling \$7,500 to four Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) cadets at its May 4th monthly luncheon at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. Pictured (from left) are Dave Parisot, Major, USAF, Ret., President of NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.; Cadet Brigitte Trombetta (\$1,500) and Major Scott Bates of Choctawhatchee High School; Cadet Jodie Welch (\$1,500) and Lt Col Mike Ramirez of Baker High School; Cadet Seth Sullivant (\$1,500) of Fort Walton Beach High School; and, Cadet Tristan Lennard (\$3,000) and CW3 Jo Durm of Crestview High School. Fort Walton Beach senior JROTC instructor Lt Col Phil Trexler was unable to attend due to illness.

(Photo by Jean Dutton)

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.

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):

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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.



Major Bill Ryan, USAF, Ret. presents the 2017 Dottie Ryan Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 to Cadet Brigitte Trombetta of Choctawhatchee H.S. JROTC with Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Scott Bates.

(Photo by Jean Dutton)

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Rank Service MOAA Mbr. No

Regular Reserve National Guard Active Duty Retired

This application is for:

Life Member New Member Renewal Auxiliary Other (specify) _____

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 is automatically an auxiliary life member.

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
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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

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