



# THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association  
[www.nwfmoe.org](http://www.nwfmoe.org)

Vol. 28 No. 06

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JUNE 2022

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur. 2 June 2022

**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
Program to follow

**Place:** Fort Walton Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB

**Program:** John Kittler, discussing the  
life and exploits of Robert Smalls

### 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.nwfmoe.org](http://www.nwfmoe.org) and select the link  
where it says "Click here to make  
reservations", or email Fred Westfall  
at [nwfreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfreservations@gmail.com), or call  
850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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## Robert Smalls: From escaped slave to House of Representatives

By Dave Parisot

Please join us for our June 2nd  
NWFMOA meeting. Our speaker  
is John "Lombardi" Kittler ,  
who will speak on the incredible  
exploits of Robert Smalls, an  
escaped slave who piloted the  
CSS Planter to freedom during  
the Civil War and was later  
elected to the US House of  
Representatives.

John is a retired Navy Captain, a  
1975 graduate of the U.S. Naval  
Academy and is a life member  
of MOAA, USNA AA, VFW,  
AMVETS and the DAV. He  
has served with distinction as  
a Veteran Service Officer. His  
volunteer support to veterans  
has been via the VFW and Florida  
Veterans Communities, providing  
Furniture and Furnishings to Veterans  
getting housing under the HUD-  
VASH program. He has lived on the  
Emerald Coast since 2005.

Our June 2nd lunch will start with  
a social gathering at 1130 with the  
meeting beginning at 1200 followed  
by lunch. To make reservations  
click [HERE](#) or go to the [NWFMOA](#)  
[webpage](#) and select the [Online](#)



John Kittler

[Reservations](#) link. You may also call  
me at 850-609-8075 or email me at  
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Fred Westfall  
Secretary

# From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

June brings with it Father's Day, which follows close behind Mother's Day in May. Both of these days honor the importance of parents and grandparents, and especially, remind us of the importance of families.

A famous author once wrote about how everything he really needed to know in life he learned in kindergarten. In fact, most of what we really need to know in life we learn before we get to kindergarten - from our families.

Such life lessons include:

"Your mom and dad take care of you, and you can trust them."

"Obey your mom and dad."

"Look both ways before you cross the street."

"Tell the truth."

"Don't punch your sister."

"Your toys are yours, and your brother's toys are his. Don't take them without permission, but if you sometimes share, you'll have more fun."

Families teach us that love is a real thing, even if we can't directly see it or measure it.

If we do not learn such lessons from our families, we may never learn them at all. Unfortunately, not everyone learns these lessons, or gets to grow up in anything like a real family.

Families come in various forms, and not all fit the standard "nuclear" model of mom, dad, and kids living happily together. Nevertheless, nearly all families are patterned after the nuclear model and try to emulate it.

Families are the foundation stones of society. Nearly all social institutions, such as businesses, governments, schools, etc. are modeled after families, and without families, civilized societies would probably not exist.

Fathers play an important leadership role in families, which should not be minimized or dismissed. Children who grow up in two-parent families tend to do better in life than those who do not. A casual look around you will confirm this.

If your parents or grandparents are still around, get in touch and let them know how important they are to you.

If you are a parent or grandparent yourself, think about the role you play in your family, and how to enhance it. Summer is a great time to spend quality time with our families and share some of those life lessons. Have a great summer.

# Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

I'm going to skip highlighting Father's Day and underscore an equally important landmark holiday to veterans —the role of women in the Armed Services. In June 12, 1948, President Truman signed "The Women Armed Services Integration Act." This opened the floodgates for patriotic women to serve in all regular active duty military services.

In my years of public service, we had great women chaplains and chaplain assistants who trained, worked, deployed, and raised their families all at the same time. Major General Lorraine Potter was our first 2 star Chief of Chaplains and a role model for men and women.

I was a swing and mid shift flight line chaplain and saw first hand the dextrous character of military women in uniform and civilian roles. They had many different names: "women warriors, shield maidens, and warrioress".

Did you know in the 1970's, 265,000 women have served in our great military, and that 11,000 were in Vietnam War (90% were nurses). Moreover, there are seven Army and one Air Force nurses whose names are engraved on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in WDC.

In our own Ft Walton backyard there is the Womens Memorial Veterans Park behind the Okaloosa Island convention center. It highlights 8 outstanding women from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan whose grit and determination were demonstrated as they fought side by side with men.

At the Air Force Academy I saw their fighting spirit in the summer training at Jack's Valley and throughout the year in sports, science and religious arenas.

My wife Mary served in the AF and concludes that the military was a positive life-enriching experience. She believes every American should give back 'public service' to our blessed nation.

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.

# Public Record

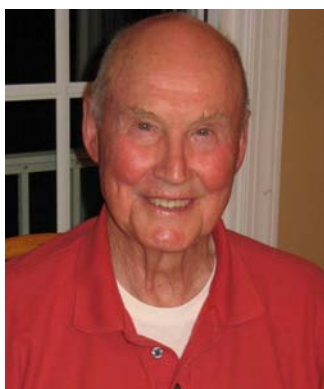
## In Memoriam

### Oliver Clyde Locke

Olive Clyde Locke, age 90, of Crestview passed away on Saturday, January 8, 2022, in Haymarket, VA. He was born in Laurel Hill, FL on June 16, 1931, to Elbert Lee & Olive Leona Locke. Clyde grew up in the Crestview area and graduated from Crestview High School in 1951. He was the first member of his family to go to college and graduated from the University of Florida in 1955. In 1956 Clyde was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy. During his military career Clyde had tours of duty on the aircraft carrier USS Lake Champlain, the submarine tender USS Proteus in Guam, and in Oakland, CA, Washington, DC, New York, Taiwan, the Pentagon and London. Clyde retired from the Navy in 1977 and began a second career at Westinghouse Corporation in Maryland. In 2004 he returned to reside in his hometown of Crestview, FL.

Clyde was a member of Woodlawn Baptist Church in Crestview. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed growing beautiful gardens of vegetables and flowers. Clyde was a proud member of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association and was a true patriot and devoted to his Faith, Family and Freedom.

Clyde is survived by his wife of 61 years, Millicent Kay Locke; daughters: Francine Orr and husband Patrick, Marianne Healy and husband Tim; also surviving are his nine grandchildren: Ryan and wife Christina, Nathan, Noah, Caitlin, Juliette, Justin, Anna, Anneliese, and Jack; great-grandchild Olivia, along with many nieces & nephews.



**Oliver Clyde Locke**

## In Memoriam

### Col. Lewis G. Aufdemorte, Jr.

Lewis G. Aufdemorte, Jr, Colonel, USAF (RET) died on May 13, 2022.

Lew was born in New Orleans on October 16, 1932, to Lewis and Mary Aufdemorte. He was married in Valley Stream NY for 69 years to the love of his life, Helen O'Rourke.

Lew served his country proudly, retiring from the United States Air Force in July 1980. In recognition of his service, Lew was awarded the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 12 oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation medal, and Air Force Expeditionary Medal, in addition to other awards and devices.

Lew served two tours in Southeast Asia flying over 200 missions in the F-4 and A-7 aircraft.

Lew's military career took him and his family to Arizona, Germany, Nevada, Alabama, Virginia, Southeast Asia, South Carolina, Texas and Florida. During these assignments, Lew was a flight commander, fighter weapons school instructor, squadron commander, staff officer, and director of operations.

His last assignment was the Deputy Commander of Headquarters Tactical Air Warfare Center (TAWC), Eglin AFB.

He was a BMW enthusiast and enjoyed many years of Swift aircraft ownership. A proud supporter who was a member of the Dedalians, BMW Car Club of America, Aero Club, Gun Club, Northwest Florida Military Officers Association, and Experimental Aircraft Association.

Lew is survived by his loving wife, Helen, and son Lewis Aufdemorte, III and wife Holley of Myrtle Beach SC, and daughter Sunny Feeley and husband Bob Feeley of Shalimar FL and Bridgton ME. Lew had seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



**Col Lewis G Aufdemorte, Jr  
USAF, RET**





# Community Outreach

**Doolittle Raiders Final Goblet Ceremony:** On April 18, 2022, the 80th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC), and Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) hosted the Final Goblet Ceremony at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at NWFSC, to salute the combined Doolittle Raiders and, in particular, the last surviving Raider, **Colonel Richard 'Dick' Cole**, USAF, Ret. I and a few other NWFMOA chapter members attended this 1 ½ hour long 'spectacular' ceremony. [A video of this ceremony can be viewed at [www.emeraldcoasttv.com](http://www.emeraldcoasttv.com); click on 'Doolittle Raiders—Final Goblet Ceremony'. The Raiders trained at Eglin AFB in 1942 and accomplished an unheard of launch of B-25 bombers from an aircraft carrier to bomb Tokyo on April 18, 1942.

The first Raider reunion occurred in December 1945 in Miami, FL, hosted by General Doolittle on his birthday. In 1947, the Raiders began their annual reunions on April 18th, a tradition that lasted over 70 years, meeting in various cities (including Fort Walton Beach) throughout the U.S. In 1959, the City of Tucson, AZ, presented the Raiders with a set of sterling silver goblets, each engraved with the name of one of the 80 men who flew the mission. In 1973, Col. Dick Cole built a display case for the goblets. At the reunions, those gathered would toast their deceased Raiders and turn their goblet upside down in the display case. At the "Final Goblet Ceremony", dignitaries in attendance included **Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall**, Air Force Chief of Staff **General Charles Q. Brown**, the Commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, **Lt Gen Jim Slife**, and Commander, Air Education & Training Command, **Lt Gen Brad Webb**. Also present were Colonel Cole's son, **Dr. (Lt Col, USAF, Ret) Rich Cole**, and daughter, **Mrs. Cindy Chal** (both of whom I was fortunate to talk with following the ceremony). Also recognized was 'our own' **Mrs. Doris Day**. During this final ceremony, the names of the five crew members of each of the 16 B-25s were read and responded to by active duty airmen of AFSOC. The Final Toast was given by Secretary Kendall as follows: "**Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose a toast to the Doolittle Raiders who gave their all in service of their mission, and to those who have joined them since, our fondest memories, sincere appreciation and gratitude. May they Rest in Peace.**" Toast Response: "**To Those Who**

**Have Gone.**" Following the toast. Colonel Dick Cole's goblet was handed to his daughter, Cindy, who turned it upside down and handed it to her brother, Dr. Rich Cole. Colonel Cole's goblet was the final one to be inverted, as he was the 'Last Man Standing'. I am fortunate to have personally met Colonel Cole on his visits to the Fort Walton Beach area in 2013 and beyond. He was a great man and a national hero. May he and all of the Doolittle Raiders Rest in Peace.



Doolittle Raider Goblets display, April 18, 2022, after the "Final Toast" at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at NWFSC. Just below Gen. Doolittle's goblet, **Colonel Dick Cole's goblet** is in the first column, 2nd row. The goblet case was built by Col. Cole in 1973, lined with blue velvet in 16 columns, one for each B-25 crew and in the order they launched from the aircraft carrier, Hornet. The horizontal tiers are, from the top, each crew's pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier, and gunner. Following the April 18th ceremony, this display was returned to the National Museum of the Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and is displayed next to a restored B-25 bomber.



***Got a Chapter question?***

***Change in personal info?***

***Comment?***



***Don't know who to ask?***

***Email: [info@nwfmoe.org](mailto:info@nwfmoe.org)***



***We'll get an answer for you.***

# Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot

At our May luncheon, we awarded four scholarships to local JROTC cadets who will be entering ROTC in college. We also recognized current and new Gold Club Members and awarded the MOAA Medal to seven junior year JROTC cadets, one each from the seven high schools in our local area with JROTC programs. We also recognized ten local high school seniors for appointments to U.S. Military Academies. Go to our website at [www.NWFMOA.org](http://www.NWFMOA.org) and click on the 'Scholarship Fund' page, then scroll down and click on the "2022" icon to see a full array of the award recipients.



**2022 NWFMOA Scholarship Winners:** Cadet John Harman, \$3,000 (Niceville AFJROTC); Cadet Quin Gable, \$3,000 (Choctawhatchee AFJROTC); Cadet Ansleigh Siren, \$4,500 (Niceville AFJORTC); and, Cadet Naomi Barr, \$3,000 (Crestview AJROTC).

At the luncheon, we also recognized our four Business Gold Sponsor for 2022: **Eglin Federal Credit Union, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management** (Team of Beam, Bass, & Byrd), **Step One Automotive Group**, and **MM Hotels** (Marriot TownPlace Suites on Eglin Parkway and Marriot Residence Inn on Hwy 98 at Beal Parkway). We also recognized those who have endowed scholarships for our program: **Lt Col Jim and Mrs Una Heavener** (deceased) via their estate; **Dave Parisot** in memory of his wife, Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot; and, **Dr (Lt Col) Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher**.

We also announced two new scholarships at \$4,000 each to junior and/or senior year college students in ROTC from high schools in Okaloosa and Walton counties, plus Navarre HS. We presented a Certificate of Appreciation and Retirement (along with a bottle of "Jim Beam") to **Chris Beam** who is retiring from Merrill Lynch in August. Chris has managed our Scholarship Fund investment account since 2013. Godspeed, Chris.

Recent donors to the Century Club are **George Colton, Bob Secrest, Mark Lombardo** (in memory of LTC Sam

Lombardo), and **Larry Bush**. George and Bob are now members of the Gold Century Club. **Bob Secrest** was one of the founding members of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc. in 1981.

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 Members:** 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 Secrest (May 2022). [Note: 35 total members]

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club** (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): May 2021: Larry Bush (R); Patrick Boab (R); Al Bills (R); Scott & Janet Berry (R); Dick Solt (R); 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

Continued on page 6



## Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 5

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/Gen Fran & Connie Hendricks** (R); May 2022: **George Colton** (R); **Bob Secrest** (R); **Mark Lombardo** (In memory of LTC Sam Lombardo); **Larry Bush** (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."**

### 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.

## Chaplain's Corner (cont.)

Continued from page 2

Today I serve as a volunteer chaplain at the Air Force Enlisted Village. Housed within these apartments are retired women veterans who served professionally and honorably in every career field. They were pilots, nurses, support and medical areas.

Every Sunday we watch the PBS show "Call the Midwife." We see first hand the sacrificial work of the nurses and nuns. Several widows and my wife discuss this very enjoyable ten season series. These women demonstrate the strength, resilience, dedication, and heart-felt approach to life's challenges. We never get through a show without tears of joy that all the women portray. They notably confront and work through controversial topics many families wrestled with in the 60's and 70's, still relevant today.

When family difficulties surface, the midwives come together to work things out for the betterment of all parties. Women lead the pack in uniting and resolving differences. Their engaging spirit is humble, kind and generous. These midwives and nuns show love in action.

Let's together recognize the sacrifice and hard work of the 2 million women veterans. Call one up and take her to tour the Womens Veterans Memorial Park behind the convention center. You would be smartly surprised to hear their inspirational testimony.

### 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:

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☐ 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**

### Membership Application/ Renewal

**New Members joining this year  
receive membership through  
December 31 next year for \$25.00**

**Membership Renewal  
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#### Life Membership Dues\*\*

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

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