



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 28 No. 03 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services MARCH 2022

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 3 Mar 2022
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: David Fitzpatrick,
Director of the Air Force
Armament Museum

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.nwfmoa.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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David Fitzpatrick

By Fred Westfall

Please join us for our March 3rd NWFMOA meeting. Our speaker for the meeting is David Fitzpatrick, the Director of the Air Force Armament Museum, a field museum in the Air Force museum program that is chartered to preserve and display the history of Armament Development at Eglin and the Air Force. David is a 26 year veteran of the Air Force with tenure in multiple career fields and nearly 20 years as an Air Force Historian. David has also served as the Chief Electronic Information Officer for the City of Sparks NV and Director of Administrative services for the Reno Veterans Mental Health Hospital.



David Fitzpatrick, Director
Air Force Armament Museum

Our **March 3rd** 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 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 **February 28th, 2022**.

Fred Westfall
Secretary

Current on dues?
Check back of
Defender!

From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

Remembering History

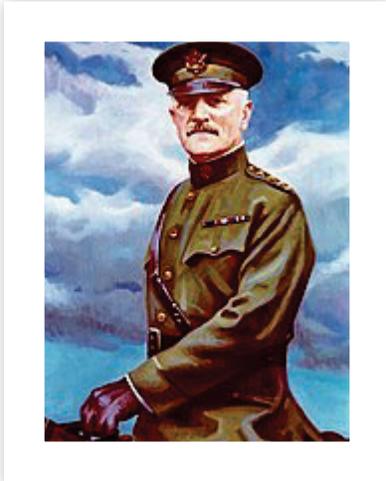
As I write this, it is still February; Black History Month, and a good time to recognize a couple of American military heroes - one white, and one black.

General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing is best known for commanding the American Expeditionary Force during World War I.

Pershing was born on a farm near Laclede, Missouri in 1860. After completing high school in 1878, he became a teacher of local African American children, while also studying at the State Normal School, graduating in 1880 with a Bachelor of Science degree in scientific didactics. Two years later, he applied to the United States Military Academy, was appointed, and graduated in 1886.

Pershing reported for active duty on September 30, 1886, and was assigned to Troop L of the 6th U.S. Cavalry stationed at Fort Bayard, in the New Mexico Territory. While serving in the 6th Cavalry, Pershing participated in several Indian campaigns and was cited for bravery for actions against the Apache.

On October 20, 1892,[34] Pershing was promoted to first lieutenant and in 1895 took command of a troop of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, one of the original Buffalo Soldier regiments composed of African-American soldiers under



**General John J. Pershing
as US Army Chief of Staff**

Continued on page 3

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members

Connie Haney, MAJ, USAF (RET)
Nathan Lepper, COL, USAF (RET)

In Memorium

Sally Angel, Surviving Spouse, 1/11/2022
David Pemberton, COL, USA (RET) 1/25/2022

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES NOW

By George Colton

There are a significant number of people who have not paid their dues for 2022. If you will check the address label on your Defender you will see the date of the year in which your dues expired. If you see a "2021" on your Defender then you owe dues. The back of the Defender also shows the amount of the dues and where to send the check.

Please, pay now. We need the monies to pay our operating expenses. If your dues have not been paid by the end of March here is what our bylaws say.

“(b) A Member will be dropped from membership for nonpayment of dues if their dues remain unpaid for a period of 90 days after 1 January of each year. A member who has been dropped for nonpayment of dues or special assessment may be reinstated upon payment of current annual dues or assessments, as the case may be.”

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.

President's Pen (cont.)

Continued from page 2

white officers. From Fort Assiniboine in north central Montana, he commanded an expedition to the south and southwest that rounded up and deported a large number of Cree Indians to Canada.

In 1897, Pershing was appointed to the West Point tactical staff as an instructor, where he was assigned to Cadet Company A. Pershing was a strict disciplinarian, and unpopular with some cadets, who took to calling him “[Nigger Jack](#)” because of his service with the 10th Cavalry. During the course of his tour at the [Academy](#), this epithet softened to “Black Jack,” a nickname that stuck with him for the rest of his life.

Pershing fought in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and gained public notoriety leading the pursuit of guerrilla leader Pancho Villa following Villa's attack on Columbus, New Mexico.

During World War I, Pershing had to follow the orders of President and Commander in Chief Woodrow Wilson, a segregationist who would not allow black units to serve in combat.

Pershing, therefore, detached the American “Buffalo Soldiers” of the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions to fight under French command, thus getting them into action without disobeying President Wilson. These became the first American units to engage the enemy during the war.

Daniel “Chappie” James Jr. was a fighter and bomber pilot in the United States Air Force who, in 1975, became the first African American to reach the rank of four-star general in the United States Armed Forces. James attended the famous Tuskegee Institute and instructed African American pilots during World War II. He flew combat missions during the Korean War and Vietnam War, and received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Air Force Distinguished Service Medals, two Legions of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Meritorious Service Medal, and fourteen Air Medals.

In 1945, James was arrested for participating in the Freeman Field Mutiny - a series of incidents at Freeman Army Airfield near Seymour, Indiana, in which black officers of the 477th Bombardment Group attempted to integrate an all-white officers' club. While under arrest, James smuggled out press releases written by fellow officer Coleman Young, who later became Mayor of Detroit. The “mutiny” set an example for later acts of civil disobedience during the civil

rights movement of the 1950s and 60s.

In July 1950 James served in the Korean War, flying 101 combat missions in P-51 Mustang and F-80 aircraft.

In 1967, James was Vice Wing Commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing under Colonel Robin Olds. The two became a legendary team, sometimes called “Blackman and Robin,” especially after conducting Operation Bolo, a “MiG sweep” that confirmed American air supremacy over North Vietnam for the rest of the Vietnam War.

In 1975, James gained his fourth star and became Commander in Chief of NORAD. He was also a noted speaker on civil rights, supporting equality for all Americans while opposing anti-American elements within the civil rights movement.

While a cadet at the Air Force Academy, I listened as Gen. James addressed the Cadet Wing, saying, “I'm a citizen of the United States of America and I'm no second-class citizen either, and no man here is, unless he thinks like one and reasons like one and performs like one. This is my country and I believe in her, and I will serve her, and I'll contribute to her welfare whenever and however I can. If she has any ills, I'll stand by her until in God's given time, through her wisdom and her consideration for the welfare of the entire nation, she will put them right.”



Daniel “Chappie” James Jr. in front of his McDonnell-Douglas F-4C Phantom in Thailand during the Vietnam War

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

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

My friends feel like we are swimming not in the calm Gulf of Mexico, but out in the stormy Atlantic. The social, medical, and financial waves keep rising and battering our once cozy family retirement life. So what does one hold onto so as to ride out these current perfect storms—Covid, unemployment, climate change, natural disasters, fires, political polarization and unprecedented suffering and loss of fellow veterans?

For 23 centuries, the words and images King David wrote in the Psalms give many the comfort and solid floating beam to keep one afloat in these turbulent waters.. I encourage my friends to find their favorite Bible and devotional texts and read them several times a day.

The Psalms truly speak to the conditions of our current life and provide hope, healing, and a deepening faith in Almighty God's "loving kindness and deliverance." The faith seekers realize that there is more to this earthly life than what our hands can touch and eyes can see. In fact, David wrote from his brokenness, rejection and hopelessness.

When we face the overwhelming and unpredictable losses all humans experiences, those with faith, hope and love rise as examples to the lost. Dark times require brighter lights. King David picks up your emotions and plants them on solid ground. When you get to the end of your rope, tie a Biblical knot and hang on to God's Holy Word.

I shared Psalm 62 with my friends:

1 [1]Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. 2 Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. 3 How long will you assault me? Would all of you throw me down- this leaning wall, this tottering fence? 4 Surely they intend to topple me from my lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse.[2] 5 Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. 6 Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. 7 My salvation and my honor depend on God[3] ; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. 8 Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. 9 Surely the lowborn are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie. If weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a

breath. 10 Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them. 11 One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: "Power belongs to you, God, 12 and with you, Lord, is unfailing love"; and, "You reward everyone according to what they have done."

MOAA national HQ seeks support

The following article came from the national headquarters of MOAA, and is quoted here.

Arlington Cemetery Update: Upcoming Bill Would Preserve Your Earned Benefit

By: Mark Belinsky
FEBRUARY 23, 2022

"MOAA and other advocates have long fought to protect – one such cemetery is seeking feedback on a proposed name change designed to increase its visibility among veterans."

"MOAA and The Military Coalition's engagement with elected officials and VA leaders"over proposed eligibility restrictions at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) have prompted thoughts on how to preserve benefits as ANC reaches capacity. Draft legislation supported by majority and minority members of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs would transform an existing VA-run national cemetery into one continuing the DoD tradition of full military honors."

"Preserving this benefit [remains one of MOAA's key legislative priorities](#) and an important issue for The Military Coalition, a group of organizations representing nearly 5.5 million members of the uniformed services community. Along with opposing proposed eligibility changes which would discriminate against veterans by service type, bar nearly all women veterans from ANC, and fails to continue the benefit for elderly veterans with end-of-life plans already in place, MOAA recommends Congress, with support from the VA and DoD, pass legislation to transform a VA-run cemetery into the next ANC as it reaches capacity in order to maintain the full military honors benefit."

The article asks MOAA members to contact their US representatives and senators in support of the proposed legislation, using the following website: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/36670/>

Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot

In the next few issues of The Defender I will address some alternate methods to donate to our Scholarship Fund other than writing a check. Some of these methods could provide tax advantages to you. This month I will briefly address an **IRA Charitable Rollover/Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**.

This donation option is very favorable for those who must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a taxable IRA. With a QCD from a traditional IRA, you can donate all or part of your RMD directly to an IRS 501c(3) charitable organization (**The NWFMOA Scholarship Fund** qualifies; our Federal ID Number is 59-3434496.) without having to count that distribution as taxable income. To do this, you must instruct your financial advisor, bank or IRA administrator to transfer funds from your traditional IRA directly to a public charity, such as the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. Be sure to have them provide your name and address on the distribution check so that we may acknowledge your donation. Some of our Chapter members are currently doing this method of donation (including myself) to reduce annual reportable income and reduce income taxes. For more detailed information on this program and its tax advantages, please consult your financial advisor.

We have a new member of the Gold Century Club with the recent donation by **Bob Allen**. Thank you, Bob. Recent donors to the Century Club are **Fred Westfall**, **Rod Gerdes**, and **Dave Parisot** (In memory of Col. Bob Garcia). Thank you for your continuing support of the Scholarship Fund. See below for the complete list of Gold Century Club members and the most recent 12-month period of the Century Club.

The 50/50 raffle at the February luncheon was won by Lori Fluker who graciously donated her winnings of \$94 back to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks, Lori.

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 Riggerbach** (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). [Note: 31 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): Mar 2021: **Dave Davis** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day); **Fred Boyer** (R) (In honor of Marlene Bosak); **Joy Houck** (R) (In memory of Maj. Stanley Houck); Apr 2021: **Dr. Keith Kulow** (R); **Kevin Kirby**; 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 Kirk** (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** (Jeff Watson (R); 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).

2021 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): Dec. 2021: **Merrill Lynch** (Chris Beam & Tess Bass); **Eglin Federal Credit Union**; **Step One Automotive Group**;

Continued on page 6

Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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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

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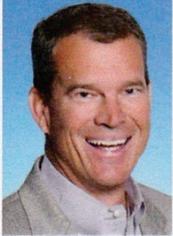



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AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social cultural, professional and service activities that extend for the local to national levels.

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
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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

