



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 24 No. 05

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

MAY 2018

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 3 May 2018  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
 Program to follow  
**Place:** Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club  
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** 2018 Annual JROTC  
 Scholarship Awards

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](http://www.nwfmoa.org) and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at [nwreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwreservations@gmail.com), or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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## 2018 Annual Scholarship Awards Attend the May 3rd Luncheon to Honor our JROTC Cadets

By Scott Berry

Another year has passed, we've all gotten a year older, and we have a new group of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets who are graduating from high school. Many of these cadets will soon be entering their colleges of choice, others have already enlisted in the military services, and some are seeking employment or have jobs lined up. Whatever the category, we congratulate all as they finish their high school years and advance to new challenges.

Through our **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund** we try to help a few of the graduating cadets who will be attending college with their expenses of tuition, books, or other of the many costs of getting a college degree by awarding scholarships. For 2018 the Scholarship Fund Board of Directors increased both the number of scholarships (up from five to seven by adding Navarre High School and Walton High School), and the dollar value of each scholarship (up from \$1,500 to \$2,000). These award values are also more equitable with the amounts that other local organizations are awarding. In addition, the winners of the individual scholarships to each JROTC program will compete for our top award of a \$4,000 scholarship (up from \$3,000). Our 2018 NWFMOA Scholarship Fund officers and

directors are: **Dave Parisot**, President; **George Colton**, Secretary-Treasurer, and Directors **Bob Allen**, **Les Matheson**, **Fred Westfall**, **Nick Marotta**, and **Carol Baker**.

At our NWFMOA luncheon meeting on May 3rd at the Fort Walton Yacht Club, we will be awarding this year's scholarships to five JROTC cadets, who will be our Guests of Honor.

a. Cadet **Tracy Elizabeth Lopez** of Fort Walton Beach High School (USAF JROTC program). Cadet Lopez plans to attend either the University of West Florida or the University of Central Florida with a major in Criminal Justice and minor in Aerospace Science.

b. Cadet **Sierra Ashton Legendre** of Navarre High School (USN JROTC program). Cadet Legendre plans to attend either the University of Tampa or the University of South Florida with a major in Business and a minor in Finance.

c. Cadet **Xiomara Guadalupe LopezLopez** of Crestview High School (USA JROTC program). Cadet LopezLopez plans to attend either San Diego University or San Bernardino University with a major in Business Administration and Management and a minor in Finance.

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# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

And I'm especially excited about expressing my greetings this month because while I always try to put my best foot forward in summarizing or announcing the chapter's good news, this month is special because,,,,,



Scott Berry

WE HAVE A NEW DEFENDER EDITOR!!!!

Allow me to explain. Larry Williamson did not resign in disgust nor was he fired. He served honorably for three years, did a tremendous job, and had changes in his life that made it difficult to fulfill the commitment he believed necessary as the editor. So I give Larry my highest praise and gratitude for a job well done.

Ken Zepp replaced him. I'm confident he'll perform equally well. He follows in a long tradition of very good editors—one of whom served in the position for almost a quarter of a century! But as with anyone new in a position, there'll be a learning curve and I solicit your help and patience. I'm sure that Ken would welcome any unsolicited input and copy. An editor never has enough copy (voice of experience).

So...Welcome Ken, and thanks for stepping up to the plate!

On a less positive note, there are still 21 members who haven't paid their dues. We've bombarded them with emails and letters and are about to give them one phone call then let them

## PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

T. F. Brooks, LTC (RET), USA, 11/4/2017

Weymer (Mac) Liljedhal, Lt Col (RET), USAF, 3/30/2018

Byron Spears, Lt Col (RET), USAF, 4/8/2018

Carolyn Spears, Surviving Spouse of Lt Col Spears, 4/20/2018

New Members:

Thomas E. Woolpert, Maj (RET), USAF

go. We hate to do that but it comes with the job. Hope you're not one of them. If you still see "2017" after your name on the mailing label, please send in your dues as otherwise this will be your last edition of the newsletter. Thanks!

Still thinking about starting a garden this year? Have I got a deal(s) for you. The volunteer arm of our local county extension office, the Master Gardeners, is sponsoring a plant sale at the Extension Office Annex, 127 W. Hollywood Blvd, FWB (right across the street from Gulf Power and Volkswagen/Subaru), on May 5th, from 8 AM until noon. There will be hundreds of options to choose from. Come check it out but ensure you follow the directions of the guy directing traffic in the parking lot. His twin brother is your chapter president!

Berry "OUT"

## Congress is Still Split Over VA Reform and Veteran Choice

By Cmdr Rene Campos, USN (Ret)

Ask any veteran if they would like to have more choices for accessing health care, and they likely would say yes. Who wouldn't? I sometimes struggle to get an appointment at the VA or through my TRICARE provider and would welcome the opportunity at times to go elsewhere for care when I have an immediate need.

But in terms of veteran's health care, lawmakers are really only in two camps of thinking when it comes to choice: wanting to give veterans more access to medical services outside of the VA if they choose, allowing veterans to be in the driver's seat, or wanting to leave the VA fully responsible for deciding where veterans should receive their care.

A real philosophical difference exists between House and Senate leaders and administration officials on what veterans' health system reform should look like, particularly how much care should be delivered in VA medical facilities and how much care should be purchased through private providers in the community.

While Senate leadership was able to reach an agreement on provisions in a draft bill - called the Caring for our Veterans Act - the effort failed to get included in the massive 2018 omnibus spending package signed by the president March 23. The \$50 billion draft bill would

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## 2018 Annual Scholarship Awards (cont.)

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d. Cadet **Ayah Ayad** of Fort Walton Beach High School (USAF JROTC program). Cadet Ayad plans to attend either the University of South Alabama or the University of West Florida with a major in Mechanical Engineering.

e. Cadet Noah **Gozun Lleva** of Choctawhatchee High School (USAF JROTC program). Cadet Lleva plans to attend the University of West Florida with a major in Political Science and minor in Air and Space Studies.

All of our scholarship awardees are also required to enroll in their college's ROTC program.

Donations are the lifeline of our Scholarship Program. 2018 is the inaugural year for two new endowed scholarships to the **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**.



**Lt. Col. James 'Jim' Heavener, USAF, Ret., 1931-2016**

The first endowed scholarship is the "**Lt. Col. James 'Jim' Heavener Memorial Scholarship**". Jim Heavener was a longtime member of NWFMOA who passed away at the age of 85 on September 28, 2016.

Some years prior to his death, Jim had established an investment account with USAA Investment Management Company which passed on to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund at the time of his death. In January 2018, the Scholarship Board established this memorial scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 annually.

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# Now and Always We'll be There.



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## Congress is Still Split Over VA (cont.)

Continued from page 2

have allowed more flexibility for the VA in determining veterans' eligibility for private-sector care and included provisions to expand VA comprehensive caregiver support to veterans prior to Sept. 11, 2001, and to assess VA facilities and infrastructure needs and assets. Still, some Republicans and the administration didn't see the bill going far enough in giving veterans greater choice to get care in the community.

On the other side of the Capitol, House Republicans and Democrats have been embroiled in similar disagreements around the issue of veterans' choice; some Republicans want to put the decision squarely in the hands of the veteran, while some Democrats see the draft bill going too far in funding VA community care, by diverting funds from infrastructure and medical services to pay for private-sector care - seen as crossing a redline and leading to privatization of veterans' health care.

MOAA and other veterans' groups have worked tirelessly with VA and congressional leaders to protect, strengthen, and reform the VA health care system over the past several years. Efforts to reform the medical system and integrate community-care programs into a broader network of care requires vigilance in striking the right balance of public and private care while ensuring the VA maintains the ability to be the primary resource for delivering veterans' health care. No veteran should be left with the impression the VA isn't responsible for providing them the health care they require.

While MOAA is supportive of reform efforts, there also must be legislative solutions and funding to support and preserve foundational and specialty services inherently under the purview of the VA. As the primary provider of medical care and services, the VA must provide clinically appropriate solutions and patient outcomes across the system, whether care is delivered inside a VA facility or in the community, and leave no veteran behind. To accomplish that, the VA must maintain visibility, management, and accountability of this responsibility. Moving all care completely to the private sector erodes the VA's responsibility and limits Congress' ability to hold the VA directly accountable.

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By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

## MOTHER MY MOTHER

Proverbs says, “Train up a child in the ways of the Lord, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

As I look back on my childhood home education the guidance of my parents, especially my mother, resonates still in my daily life today.

Her guidance to her 5 children is exemplary—from her words of personal encouragement, emphasis on the centrality of family, and to her walk with God.

After I joined the Air Force, my proud mother made sure all my family arrived safe and had all we needed. However, my most vivid recollections as a chaplain highlighted a woman who was not hesitant to read the Scripture and pray from the pulpit at the opening of Sunday services that I officiated over (I’m sure there were pilots who wanted their mother’s in the cockpit).

She saw the fruits of her decades of guidance and always said how proud she was of all her children. She came to every CONOS base I was assigned to. Her suitcase was always full of homemade oatmeal and chocolate chip cookies to share with the chapel staff. Her only request was a little sightseeing and to eat with family and friends at a local restaurant and try their specialties (I didn’t tell her about the gator appetizer till she finished the delicious ‘chicken cubes’).

After retirement I pastored churches in New York so I could be close to her and my sisters. She always enjoyed reading the daily devotional together and praying—what a rare gift experience. My children marveled at her faith and insight.

In her final year we often discussed death and heaven. “I’m not worried about where I am going, I just don’t want a complicated drawn out death” she said.

I encouraged her, “God would bring you home after you had an enjoyable season with your church and family; when your mission is complete, God will call you. Mom, it’s safe to say you have your ticket; you just don’t want your boarding pass right now.”

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By Dave Parisot

**Memorial Day, May 28, 2018:** On this year’s Memorial Day most of our local communities will be holding services to honor the memories of our departed service members and spouses. Please check the local newspapers for times and locations in your community.

Each year at the **Beal Cemetery** services in Fort Walton Beach, our JROTC cadets from FWB High School place U.S. flags at the gravesites of well over 1,000 military veterans. Another part of these services is reading the “Roll Call of the Deceased”. In 2017 and 2018 NWFMOA lost 17 members or spouses as follows: **Mrs. Fern Trambley** (Lt. Col. Joseph Trambley) on 2/11/17; **Mrs. Kay Litke** (Maj. Gen. Don Litke) on 3/10/17; **Mrs. Nancy Garcia** (Col. Bob Garcia) on 4/28/17; **Col. Donald W. Burger**, USAF, Ret. (Jo Burger) on 5/18/17; **Lt. Col. Guy B. Dunn**, USAF, Ret., on 6/2/17; **Lt. Col. Charles R. Moore**, USAF, Ret., (Herta Moore) on 6/3/17; **Lt. Col. George J. Nicoloff**, USAF, Ret. (Elanor Nicoloff) on 9/17/17; **Lt. Col. T. F. Brooks**, USA, Ret. (Helen Brooks) on 11/4/17; **Col. Duane M. Davis**, USAF, Ret. (Jeannie Davis) on 11/17/17; **Lt. Col. Thomas M. Churan**, USAF, Ret. (Lesley Churan) on 11/28/17; **Lt. Col. Maurice E. Ray**, USAF, Ret. (Nancy Ray) on 11/28/17; **Lt. Col. Marie L. Wagner**, USAF, Ret. on 12/14/17; **Mrs. Beryl Brenner** (Surviving Spouse) on 12/27/17; **Mrs. Kristine Sams** (Surviving Spouse) on 1/13/18; **LCdr. Eileen Summitt**, USN, Ret. (RADM James K. Summitt) on 3/2/18; **Lt. Col. Weymer E. Liljedahl**, USAF, Ret. on 3/30/18; and, **Lt. Col. Byron P. “Slip” Spears**, USAF, Ret. (Carolyn Spears) on 4/8/18 at age 100. Please remember our deceased members and spouses on Memorial Day.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The services at Beal Cemetery will start at **10:00AM** this year instead of 11:00AM. I ask that all NWFMOA members and spouses in attendance join us at the flag pole when our organization is called for a ‘memorial salute’ and place a flower in the bouquet at the base of the flag pole. Flowers are provided.



PHOTO OF THE ‘BOUQUET OF REMEMBRANCE’ CREATED DURING THE ROLL CALL OF THE DECEASED AT LAST YEAR’S MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT THE BEAL CEMETERY.

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Suicide Prevention

**Suicide affects all Americans, including veterans. Read about warning signs and resources to help those who might be struggling.**

**By Anne Hartline, member,  
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Suicide affects all Americans — all genders, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that from 1999 through 2014, there was a 24-percent increase in suicide rates in the general population for both males and females. In 2014, an average of 20 veterans a day died from suicide. Of veterans who killed themselves, 65 percent were age 50 and older. VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin has stated suicide is a national public health crisis and has made suicide prevention his top clinical priority.

Knowing warning signs, asking a person directly about suicidal thoughts and plans, and telling someone who is trained to help are crucial to suicide prevention. Immediate help is needed for someone talking about killing himself/herself and has a plan to use a gun, pills, or other means. Another critical warning is someone talking or writing about death, dying, or suicide. Other warning signs include expressing feelings of hopelessness and worthlessness, exhibiting dramatic mood changes, increasing use of alcohol and other drugs, and expressing having no reason for living.

Perhaps the biggest myth about suicide is that talking about it makes people more likely to kill themselves. In reality, asking people directly about suicide can bring it into the open and allow opportunity for intervention.

Suicide is not a secret to keep. Seek help from a licensed mental health professional. If the threat is critical, call 911 or take the person to a hospital emergency room. Help is available for veterans by calling the VA Crisis Line: (800) 273-8255, press 1. Chat online at [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net) or send a text message to 8382555 to receive confidential support 24/7, 365 days a year. [Coaching Into Care](#) is a VA national telephone service available to family and friends of veterans that provides mental health professionals to assist callers with determining the best way to get help for a veteran and how to navigate the VA system. Coaching also involves helping callers determine how to begin the conversation to motivate the veteran to seek treatment. Call (888) 823-7458, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST.

## 2018 Annual Scholarship Awards (cont.)

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The second endowed scholarship is the “**Chong Cha ‘Kim’ Parisot Memorial Scholarship**” in the amount of \$2,000 annually. Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot passed away on March 28, 2016 at the age of 74. She was the spouse of David A. Parisot, Major, USAF (Ret.) for 34 years. Chong was born in the Republic of Korea in December, 1941 in a rural community and was raised without the benefit of any formal education (In that era, most young girls were not sent to school). However, she still managed to speak two languages (Korean and English), and recognized the value of education by paying tuition for her five nieces and nephews beyond the sixth grade in the Korean school system. Major Parisot wishes to honor Chong’s efforts in educating her family members by establishing this scholarship to a JROTC cadet of Okaloosa County, Florida.



**Chong Cha Parisot  
1941 - 2016**

At the May 5th luncheon, we will also recognize the members of our **Gold Century Club**. This membership requires a minimum of \$500 in cumulative donations to the Scholarship Fund since 2015. To date, we have eleven people who have achieved this distinction, as follows: Maj. **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); Mrs. **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); Maj. **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); Mrs. **Janet Taylor** (daughter of Bill & Dottie Ryan) (Mar 2017); Maj. **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); Col. **Bob Garcia** (July 2017); Col. **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); Lt. Col. **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); Lt.Col./**Dr. Howard Fisher** (Nov 2017); Mrs. **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); and Lt. Col./**Dr. Fred Westfall** (April 2018).

The program for our luncheon is included with this article. Let’s have a great turnout to congratulate our JROTC scholarship winners for 2018.

### **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.

# Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot



We will be awarding five scholarships this year totaling \$12,000 at our May luncheon at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. Please see this month's lead article for detailed information. I hope you plan to attend to help recognize our future military leaders.

The 50/50 drawing at the April Chapter luncheon was won by **Ruth Sykes**, a guest of **Jon Morris**. Ticket sales were \$161 with \$81 to Ruth and \$80 to the Scholarship Fund. My thanks to all who bought tickets.

Recent renewal donors to the **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** are **Al Bills**, **Bob Gramm**, and **Fred Westfall**. With his most recent donation we welcome Fred Westfall into the **Gold Century Club**.

Here is 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 2017/2018 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets.

**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 Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); and **Fred Westfall** (April 2018).

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club:** April 2017: **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Don Litke** (in memory of Kay Litke); **Bob Gramm**; **Scott Berry**. May 2017: WWII Vet **Bill Colgan** (Renewal); August 2017: WWII Vet **Sam Lombardo** (In memory of Jean Lombardo) (Renewal); **Dr. Roger Riegenbach** (In memory of Janice Riegenbach). September 2017: **Beryl Brenner** (In memory of George Brenner); October 2017: **Doug Hardin** (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2017: **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Jean Dutton** (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Renewal); **Karl Eschmann** (In memory of Col. Bud Day and Kay Litke) (Renewal); December 2017: **Dr. Roger Riegenbach** (Renewal); **Dr. Keith Kulow** (In memory of Lt Col David Kulow); **Pete Peterzen** (Renewal); **Les Matheson**, **Dann Mittiza**: January 2018: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal)(In memory of Mike Flynt);

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Truth be told she went to church where they sang happy 93rd birthday, ate a delicious lunch with sisters, watched her hallmark movies, and retired to bed. She awoke peacefully in heaven.

I pray as you celebrate Mother's Day you will recollect the highlights of that most special God given relationship of love and nurturing. This mother's day will be full of storytelling within the 3 generations of children that honor her legacy. I would not be the person or pastor I am without the direct prayers and guidance of my mother.

Do I miss her? Absolutely! Do you?

## Congress is Still Split Over VA (cont.)

Continued from page 3

The good news is the VA reform and veterans' choice debate is not over. The chairs of both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees are committed to tackling health care, caregiver, and infrastructure system reforms.

The end goal? The committees will press hard to get a final reform bill enacted before Memorial Day. MOAA and our veterans' service organization partners will remain engaged every step of the way with lawmakers to ensure the needs of veterans today and in the future are met by reforms to the health system - a system that puts veterans at the center of the decision-making process for how and where they'd like to receive their care and keeps the VA responsible and accountable.

### 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 Fund (cont.)

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**Clyde Locke** (Renewal); and WWII Vet **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Janet Taylor** (Renewal) (In Honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Dr. Roger Riegenbach** (Renewal) (In memory of Janice Riegenbach). February 2018: **Dick Prater** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Nick Marotta** (Renewal); **Dennis Phillips**; **Carol Baker** (Renewal) (In memory of David Baker); **Dave Parisot** (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot); March 2018: **Al Bills** (Renewal). April 2018: **Bob Gramm** (Renewal); **Fred Westfall** (Renewal).

**2017/2018 Business Platinum Donor** (\$750 minimum donation): December 2017: **Gold's Gym of FWB** (In-kind).

**2017/2018 Business Gold Donor** (\$500 - \$749): December 2017: **Eglin Federal Credit Union** (Renewal); January 2018: **Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates)** (Renewal).

**2017/2018 Business Silver Donors** (\$250 - \$499): December 2017: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club** (In-kind) (Renewal); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-

kind).(Renewal); **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind) (Renewal).

**2017/2018 Business Bronze Donors** (\$100 - \$249): October 2017: **Eye MD of Niceville** November 2017: **Gator Lakes Golf Course** (In-kind) (Renewal); **Mary's Kitchen Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind); **Buffalo's Reef Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind); December 2017: **Tammy's Journeys of FWB** (In-kind) (Renewal); **Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café** (FWB) (In-kind); **Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen** of FWB (In-kind); **Painting With A Twist** of FWB (In-kind); **Ernie's Dockside Café** of Niceville (In-kind); **Destin Party Boat Fishing** (In-kind); **Connect with Flowers of Shalimar** (In-kind); **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (In-kind); **The Twisted Grape** of Shalimar (In-kind); **Lee Nissan** (FWB).(In-kind). February 2018: **David Beaulieu, Agent for New York Life Insurance.**

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

**NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.:** "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 recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club).

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

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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:

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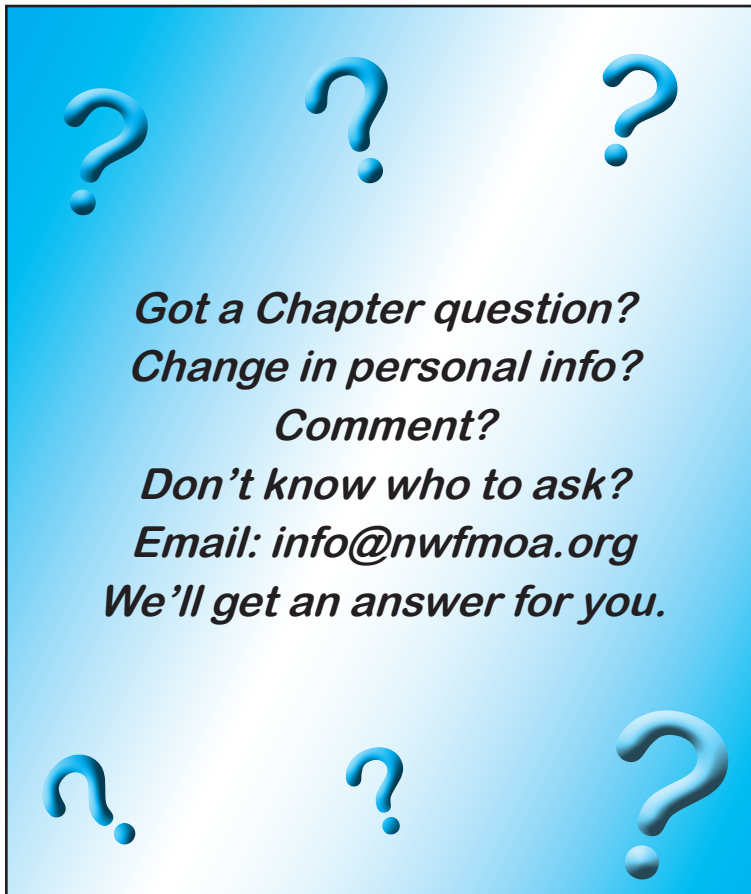
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Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, and mail to: David Parisot, President; 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

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