



THE DEFENDER

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

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Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

MAY 2022

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur. 5 May 2022
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: JROTC scholarship awards and military academy appointments

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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Helping To Build Future Military Officers And Leaders

By Dave Parisot

The title of this article is the motto of your **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**. We do this through our support of local JROTC detachments and cadets at seven local high schools in our Chapter catchment area. These high schools are Baker (Army), Choctawhatchee (Air Force), Crestview (Army), Fort Walton Beach (Air Force), Navarre (Navy), Niceville (Air Force), and Walton (Air Force).

The most apparent method of support is the **NWFMOA Scholarship Program**. Established in 1981 when an award of a \$500 savings bond was made to a Crestview JROTC cadet, the scholarship program has grown significantly over the years. Although I do not have complete records of all scholarships awarded, I can say that since 2015 we have awarded 48 scholarships totaling over \$100,000. This does not include the four scholarships we will be awarding this year on May 6, 2022, totaling \$13,500 at our monthly Chapter luncheon. This year we are returning to holding the Scholarship Luncheon at our regular meeting venue at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. Due to restrictions of COVID-19, our 2020 and 2021 scholarship awards programs were held elsewhere.

Another way we support local JROTC units is the **MOAA Medal Program**. This medal was created by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

to recognize leadership and academic achievements of ROTC and JROTC cadets in their junior year of college or high school, respectively, Selectees must be in good academic standing, be of high moral character, demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country, and, demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership. Each year we award the MOAA Medal to a cadet from each of the seven JROTC programs we support. These cadets are selected by each school's Senior JROTC Instructor.

A third method of our support to local JROTC units is by offering an **Educational Support Grant** of up to \$500 per unit fund equipment and/or educational events which are not funded by the schools or the military service of sponsorship.

The policies and procedures, and applications for all of these programs are on the www.NWFMOA.org website on the Scholarship Fund pages.

Luncheon Details: Date and Time- Thursday, May 5th with social at 11:30AM and program start at noon with the Presentation of Colors by the Choctawhatchee JROTC Honor Guard with plated lunch at 12:15PM.
Location- Fort Walton Yacht Club, 180

From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

One More Time

As you know, the NWFMOA Board of Directors is in the process of deciding whether to continue publishing our monthly Defender newsletter on paper, or to send only a digital version to our members via email. Eliminating the printed version would save our chapter several thousand dollars per year – money which could be used for other purposes. However, some of our members may prefer to continue receiving the paper copy.

Before the board makes its final decision, we would like to hear from any of our members who care to comment. If you wish to do so, please send an email to me at president@nwfmooa.org, or phone me at (850) 830-8772, and let me know which option you think is best. I will keep a count of the yeas and nays and report them to the board before the final decision is made. Thank you all for your help.

Regarding some other matters, the month of May contains two important dates. One of these is Mother's Day and the other is Memorial Day. On Mother's Day, we will have the opportunity to honor our mothers, and I would like to give best wishes to all our chapter's members and spouses who are mothers or grandmothers. Thank you for all the love and care you have given to your children and grandchildren over the years, and please keep up the good work.

On Memorial Day we will honor those among our fellow veterans who were killed in action. It is a very solemn occasion, and perhaps the best way we can honor our fallen comrades is by talking with our families, friends, and neighbors about those we knew who died in combat, and what it was like to serve alongside them. This may be a difficult or painful subject for some of us to talk about, but it is also something that our fellow citizens should be aware of, in order to better understand recent American history and the sacrifices made by military personnel. We may also be doing ourselves a favor by talking to people we trust about our own experiences, and perhaps by getting some things off our chests that we have kept bottled up for too long.

Also during our May meeting, we will be honoring local students who have earned NWFMOA scholarships, as well as some local students who have been appointed to the incoming classes at our national military academies. This is an event that we can all look forward to.

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

MAY MOTHERS DAY 2022

May is full of meaningful military holidays that cover a large gamut: Military Caregiver, National Military Appreciation, Public Service Recognition Week, Silver Star Service Banner Day, National Day of Prayer, National Nurses Week, VE Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Armed Forces Day, Children of Fallen Patriots Day, Peace Officers Memorial Day, Maritime Day, and Memorial Day. Of all these important celebrations, I will focus on the day that honors mothers who make all the other days possible.

Our Mothers stood by their husbands, daughters and sons. They followed us around the world. They waited a year as we accomplished our remotes, and longer when we went to war. Some waited 6 years for their POW husbands, while others continue to wait for the MIA's.

Nowadays a civilian misses a bus or train they get upset over a 15 minute wait, or several hours for a plane.

Mother's day is underscored in the Old Testament texts Lev 19:3 Ex 20:12. They are commandments that God gave us- "Honor your father and mother," and "Respect your father and mother."

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PUBLIC RECORD

New Members

Bobbie Garcia, Surviving Spouse

In Memoriam

Barbara Brewer, Surviving Spouse, January 2022

Special Announcement:

There is a website that highlights the service of military veterans and military celebrities from long ago to today. The website is called "Together We Served". It is a free site that you can join or just view its content. The link is: <https://blog.togetherweserved.com/>

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.

Helping To Build (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Ferry Road NE, FWB, FL 32548. **Menu Selections:** **A-** Salad with roasted chicken; or, **B-** Beef Tips with noodles, vegetable medley and side salad. Both meal selections include crackers, beverage, (iced tea, coffee, water), and brownie for dessert. Meals will be plated and delivered to tables by Yacht Club staff. Please make your lunch reservations via the NWFMOA website or through Fred Westfall not later than April 30th. Face covering/mask is optional based on individual preference. Hand sanitizer will be available.

At this luncheon, in addition to presenting scholarships (see awardees below), we will also award the MOAA Medal to seven outstanding JROTC cadets in their junior year of high school, one cadet each from the seven high schools in our area. The presiding officer will be **Fran Hendricks**, Brigadier General, USAF, Ret. We will also recognize the graduating seniors from the seven high schools who have received **military academy appointments** this year, and local JROTC Instructors. Honor Guard for the Presentation of Colors will be JROTC cadets from Choctawhatchee High School.

Scholarship Winners: During the first week of March we received a total of four applications from local JROTC cadets. All of the applicants met the scholarship criteria. Thus, each of them will be awarded at least a \$3,000 scholarship. The Scholarship Fund Board of Directors of **George Colton, Bob Allen, Fred Westfall, Scott Bates, Fran Hendricks, and Dave Parisot** scored each application to be used in determining which cadet will receive the \$4,500 **“Lt Col James ‘Jim’ Heavener, USAF, Ret., and Mrs. Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship”**. Factors scored for each applicant are academic record, education, activities & leadership, honors & awards, community service, work experience, financial need, and recommendations by the JROTC senior officer and others.

On March 30th, each cadet applicant appeared before the Scholarship Board members for a ‘question and answer’ session and scoring. The scores from the written application and the in-person interviews were combined to determine the winner of the \$4,500 scholarship. This winner will be announced at our May 5th Scholarship Luncheon. Recipients of NWFMOA Scholarships are required to enroll in ROTC at their college.

Our four scholarship winners for 2022 are: **Cadet John Harman**, Niceville JROTC; projected to attend Norwich University with a major in Cyber Security; **Cadet Ansleigh Siren**, Niceville JROTC, projected to attend the University of New Orleans with a major in Mechanical Engineering; **Cadet Naomi Barr**, Crestview JROTC, projected to attend the University of West Florida with a major in Pre-Med Biological Sciences, and, **Cadet Quin Gable**, Choctawhatchee JROTC, projected to attend the University of West Florida with a major in Cyber Security.. Each of these cadets will be awarded at least a \$3,000 scholarship with one of the four to be awarded the \$4,500 **Heavener Memorial Scholarship**.

New scholarship designations for this year are the **“Dr. (Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.) Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship”** funded by Howard and Irene; the **“Colonel Robert ‘Bob’ Garcia, USMC, Ret., Memorial Scholarship”**, and, the **“LTC Samuel ‘Sam’ Lombardo, USA, Ret., Memorial Scholarship”**. Each of these three scholarships are for \$3,000. Sam Lombardo passed away on June 11, 2021, just a month short of his 102nd birthday. Bob Garcia died on January 7, 2022 at age 87. Howard and Irene, Sam, and Bob are all long-term donors to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund and members of the Gold Century Club.

MOAA Medal Winners: In past years the MOAA Medals have been presented by a Chapter member at each school’s JROTC Awards program. In 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we mailed the MOAA Medals and certificates to the schools for presentation by the JROTC Instructors. In 2021, as most schools still had restrictions on non-school presenters at their JROTC Awards programs, we decided to bring the winning cadets to our Scholarship Luncheon as our guests for the presentations. I received many very positive comments on this from our members present, so we are doing it again this year. This year’s MOAA Medal winners and their units are: **Cadet MSG James Johnson** (Crestview JROTC); **Cadet Carter Van Ohnen** (Fort Walton Beach JROTC); **Cadet Ensign Coltyn Young** (Navarre JROTC); and, **Cadet Perla Gonzalez** (Walton JROTC). MOAA Medalists for Niceville, Baker, and Choctawhatchee JROTC units have not yet been selected as of this writing.

At this year’s Scholarship Luncheon we will also recognize local high school seniors who have received appointments to one of our military academies. Known appointees as of this writing are **Leanne Gujski, Massimo Grisotto, and Page Dolloff**, all of Niceville High School and all to the USAF Academy; and Navarre JROTC **Cadet Gavin Unterreiner**, to the USAF Academy. I do not yet have all the names of this year’s military academy appointees from our seven

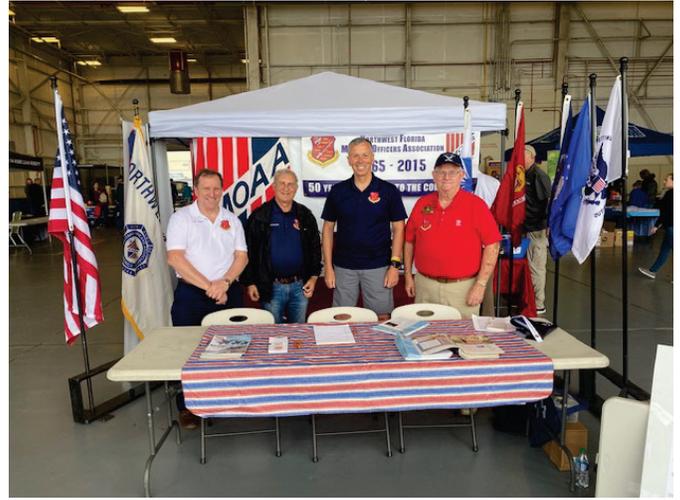
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Community Outreach

Memorial Day 2022: Remember our deceased; 919th SOG 50th Anniversary

Memorial Day for 2022 is on May 30th. As of April 13th, our Chapter has experienced fourteen (14) deaths of our members and spouses in the past year: **Col. Roger Smith**, USAF, Ret., passed on April 24, 2021; **Mrs. Gertrude Georgianna ‘Gigi’ Allen** (wife of Lt Col Bob Allen) passed on May 27, 2021; **Col. Melvin Bryant**, USAF, Ret., (WWII Veteran) died on June 4, 2021; **LTC Samuel ‘Sam’ Lombardo**, USA, Ret., (WWII Veteran) passed on June 11, 2021 (With Sam’s respect and honor of our U.S. flag, how coincidental that he passed on Flag Day); **LTC Michael La Garde**, USA, Ret., died on June 16, 2021; **Lt. Col. Fred Boyer**, USAF, Ret., passed on June 16, 2021; **Col. Lucien Byron**, USAF, Ret., died on July 6, 2021; **Lt. Col. Felix Sambogna**, USAF, Ret. Passed on September 24, 2021; **Col. Richard ‘Dick’ Prater**, USAF, Ret., died on October 17, 2021; **Mrs. Dorothy Byron** (surviving spouse of Col. Lucien Byron) passed on November 15, 2021; **Mrs. Barbara Brewer**, surviving spouse, died on January 3, 2022; **Col. Robert ‘Bob’ Garcia**, USMC, Ret., died on January 7, 2022; **Mrs. Angel Salty**, surviving spouse, died on January 11, 2022; and, Col. David Pemberton, USA, Ret., passed on January 25, 2022. Please remember our veteran and spousal members as well as their surviving family members on Memorial Day. Many of our local cities and other organizations will be having Memorial Day services. Check local newspapers and websites for information on these activities.

NWFMOA had information booth at the 919th SOG Anniversary. The 919th Special Operations Group held an open house for its military members and their families on Saturday, April 2nd at Duke Field. NWFMOA was invited to have an information booth (see photos) 6785—at this event to increase local awareness of our Chapter. NWFMOA members who assisted with the booth were **Fran Hendricks, Karl Eschmann, Jim Shoff, George Hanks, Fred Westfall** and **Dave Parisot**. Part of our purpose was to recruit new Chapter members from our local Reserve military personnel. Although no ‘official’ sign-ups, interest was expressed by three officer Reservists.



The “early crew” for our booth at the 919th SOG: Jim Shoff, Karl Eschmann, Fran Hendricks and Dave Parisot.



The “late crew” at the NWFMOA booth at the 919th SOG: George Hanks, Membership Chair, and Fred Westfall.



Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot

This is the month for our annual Scholarship Luncheon. Please see the article on page 1 of this month's Defender for information on this event and program.

Donations to the Century Club since my last article are **Joy Houck** (in memory of Maj. Stanley Houck, USAF, Ret. and **B/Gen Fran & Mrs. Connie Hendricks**. Joy's donation makes her our newest member of the Gold Century Club. Thank you Joy and Fran & Connie for your 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 April luncheon was won by Nick Marotta who received \$74 with \$74 also going to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets.

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 Riegenbach** (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) [Note: 33 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 (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 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).

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-

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Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 5

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

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

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Helping To Build (cont.)

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local high schools, but please come to our May luncheon to congratulate these young men and women along with our scholarship winners and MOAA Medal winners.

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.)

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Is there a more grateful way to make this Mother’s Day more meaningful? For most of us retirees our mothers have already passed away. Mary and I will light a candle after Sunday worship in their honor. We will cook their favorite meal, write special remembrances in our gratitude book, and yes we will even take an afternoon nap just like they did.

Since both their graves are in New York, we will call our siblings and children to retell some stories. If you can visit her grave with your children, talk to her, pray, put a card, flower and a coin at her headstone.

To the children and grandchildren I say plan a few days and treat her like a queen. Go through photo albums, take her to her favorite places. Maybe you have a box with some letters, items she made, pictures etc. We transcribed old 8mm to CD so she could see family trips from the 1960’s. We still keep a picture of our mothers on our hutch.

My mother was strong; she raised five children on her own. She was very spiritual and made sure we met every night at 7 o’clock for family devotions.

She prayed for neighbors who were going through a difficult time and put her prayers into action by cooking a meal for them. She was hard-working, supportive and very generous.

At critical junctures in my life she offered good insight into parenting, ministry and retirement. She had the ‘lived experience’ and knew her children better than any self-help author. Her rare gift was the ability to listen without interrupting. Her advise was always backed up with “I’m here if you need me.”

Yes I think of mom when her tv show comes on, or a food plate, or quip. The grief is gone because her love was constant and strong. She was unpretentious and humble, volunteered behind the scenes and never wanted an award.

When she faced her own difficulties she was stoic. She paved a new road from her spiritual and prayerful attitudes through health and financial issues. Today we see ourselves in our mother’s words and behaviors, and play it forward to the next generation. Thanks mom for a life well lived.



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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
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
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76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

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 Rank Service MOAA Member Number

Regular Reserve National Guard Active Duty Retired

This application is for:

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

