



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 19 No. 10 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services NOVEMBER 2013

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed., 6 November 2013

Time: Open: 0700; Bkst: 0715;
Meeting: 0800-0900

Place: Westwood Retirement Resort, 1001 Mar Walt Dr, FWB

Program: Maj Zachary Bartoe, 53rd Wing

Please:

• MAKE A RESERVATION

- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change. \$7.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Bill Van Hoesen at 225-2957 or send an email to: bvanhoesen@cox.net if you are attending.

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STEP FORWARD AND VOLUNTEER

By Jeff Watson

Wow! Can you believe that we have just a few months left in this year? So much has happened this past year and yet we have so much still ahead of us. I have so many thoughts buzzing around right now about things to do, it's a wonder any of it gets accomplished. Okay – that's an overstatement but I hope it's, at least, thought-provoking. Like, one (or several) of you saying "Really? I could do that."

As you know Board-member Bill Van Hoesen is the Nominating Committee chairman. He is looking to you to step forward and volunteer to continue leading this fine organization. So, have you let Bill know that you want to be on the committee with him and perhaps to let him know that you want to serve as an officer next year?

Membership is so important and it requires someone willing to meet with the public and let the public know what we do. Every time you read the "Friends & Neighbors" section of the local newspaper, and think, "our organization should be involved with this" or "why isn't NWFMOA doing that?" the answer is because we missed an opportunity. Why? Simple. We need more members to volunteer to carry our baton.

Similarly, we need a program chair to set up our speakers. If you like what I have

presented for you, then follow my lead. If you want new, then be the one to get new speakers. They are out there. I'll even help you.

Okay; ready to hear from fighter-side of the Air Force? I am. Major Zachary "Camel" Bartoe will be our guest speaker for November. He flies jets! To give more may take away his thunder so come out and hear what he has to say. He is with the 53rd Wing and, barring any surprises, will join us on 6 November.

As you know, our perennial entertainment for the December breakfast has been the Chorus from Niceville High School, Opus One. Again, they have agreed to present their festive show for our pleasure at Westwood. Make plans for 4 December to join us and listen to Opus One.

Finally, our Air Force Ball will once again be at the Emerald Grande. Plan for a festive time on, Thursday, 5 December, with musical entertainment by "Retroactive" along with a dance floor, a great menu, a silent auction to help support our scholarship fund and the opportunity to have fun with friends and associates.

Have a great wonderful Columbus Day and Halloween! Until we meet again, we are adjourned!



President's Message

By Jeff Watson, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

As I went out to the get the newspaper this morning with my little dog buddy, Sherman, I could feel a “teench”* of fall in the air. At 5 a.m., it was a cool, dry morning, quiet, but not quite dark (as Snoopy would write). The moon is waxing right now so I know if I were on the beach instead of writing this, I would see a beautiful sight cast across the Gulf of Mexico. This is a great time of year to be in northwest Florida – warm days and cool nights –it’s perfect!



Jeff Watson

Since we met last, Judy and I (along with more than 600 others) celebrated the Air Force’s 66th Birthday with an AF Ball at the Emerald Coast Conference Center on the Island hosted by Eglin Air Force Base. We had the pleasure of sitting with some professional dancers from a dance studio in Crestview. Some of their students are in the Air Force and they were there to watch them dance later in the evening. Also since we last met, we have been in the throes of college football with dynasties battling for weekly wins and rankings with Heisman hopefuls at their best. Oh yes, and the ‘boys of summer’ are still playing; I better get ready to pick my World Series team (Judy and I do this almost every year – it’s far more efficient than watching 100+ games in the summer). The Mullet Festival is next weekend (as I write this) and the Destin Fishing Rodeo is on, Halloween is ahead and the canceled Destin Seafood Festival (thanks T.S. Karen) is behind us. All in all, what a great place to live! If you want a song for this time of year, try Willie Nelson’s “September” song; the days are precious between September and November.

Continued on page 6

PUBLIC RECORD

IN MEMORIAM: Col George E. “Bud” Day, Sr., USAF (Ret), 7/27/2013

IN MEMORIAM: Mrs Margie B. Kiser, AUX, 8/17/2013.

NEW LIFE MEMBER: Col Melvin H. Bryant, USAF (Ret)

Annual Military Ball

By Gayle Norgaard

MARK YOUR CALENDER

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 2013 6:00PM

Annual Military Ball to Benefit the Scholarship Fund
Emerald Grande at Harbor Walk Village Socialize,
have dinner and dance to the music by
the Retroactive.

Tickets will be available by the end of October and
early reservations can be made by contacting Gayle
Norgaard, PH 850-259-1155, or Email: gayleret@cox.net.

Each table seats eight.

More information is available on the web at
www.NWFMOA.org.



(Potential) Member Spotlight



Erica Sieg and Mark Watkins

**Mother Father Pastor Sister
Chaplain Beggar Soldier**

**By Sarah A. Shirley, Ch,
Lt Col, FLANG**



Chaplain Shirley

Welcome to November, home to the Feast of Saint Martin of Tours. Veteran’s Day (a band formerly known as Armistice Day) is celebrated on his feast day, November 11. Those of us who feel compelled by the mystery of the all things saintly may find it beyond coincidence that the Armistice was signed on Saint Martin’s day given his personal military history. I love Martin of Tours because his narrative partly responsible for my vocational identity and the place other chaplains and I have in your lives. If you enjoy what you read here today, give St. Martin the credit. If not, of course, blame me.

Martin was born to a pagan military family 1700 years ago (fourth century) in what are now Italy and France. At 15 he followed his father’s path and joined the Army. He had a big heart and took care of sick, poor and hungry people. Legend has it that he was so humble he refused to let his servant wait on him. He had heard of Christianity and believed he had already integrated Christian practices into his life, so he decided to study so he could be baptized.

Martin was baptized a Christian at 18, became a monk and eventually bishop of Tours. There are various stories of how long he remained a soldier and how he came to leave the army, but all involve his refusal to take up arms and fight. It seems he became convinced that peace and nonviolence were the proper ways to live as a Christian.

While still a student and soldier, Martin encountered a poor man begging near the gates of Amiens in the north of France. It was winter and snow was falling. The beggar was shivering in the cold asking passersby for help, yet people walked by as if the man didn’t exist. Martin had nothing with him save weapons, so he took off his warm soldier’s cloak, cut it in two, and gave half to his poor neighbor. The following night Christ appeared to him in a dream clothed in a piece of that cloak and said, “Martin, the catechumen [student preparing for baptism], has clothed Me with this mantle! Truly I tell you, whatever

you did for one of the least of these my brothers you did for me.”

The French word for “cloak” is *capella*. After Martin became famous and beloved, priests going into battle with armies carried *capellas* with them to remember and honor Martin’s sacrifice. Hence the priests themselves became known as *cappellanus*. The title “Chaplain” is derived from *cappellanus*.

People call me “Chaplain Shirley” or “Chaplain Sarah” or just plain “Chaplain,” with an occasional “Chaps” and “Chappy” thrown in. I’m old enough to remember when my own church (Episcopal) refused to ordain women. I found it personally very hurtful and wish I’d had the maturity to handle that hurt more constructively than I did for many years. But that’s another story altogether. The point is that when we did finally ordain women there was huge discussion about what “lady priests” should be called. The conversation on that has continued and I am often asked some version of this question, “If I call a man priest ‘Father’ what do I call you?” Since my path took me into institutional, community and military ministry, I have an easy out: “Call me Chaplain.”

St. Martin of Tours provided my answer almost two thousand years ago by an act of kindness, charity and sacrifice. How many answers might we discover and problems might we solve if we follow Martin’s lead and care for others, especially sick, poor and hungry children, women and men? This Veteran’s Day honor St. Martin by doing acts of service and charity to Veterans suffering from poverty, illness and hunger.

Notes: source material for St. Martin’s story is varied and available for the asking. A lovely rendition designed for children is offered as a free download at www.thecalendarsong.com. It’s suitable for use in children’s church or Sunday School on Veteran’s Day.



Scholarship Fund Needs Your Help!

The Northwest Florida Military Officers Association, Inc. is required to perform community service as a part of its commitment to being a tax exempt veteran's organization. The principle community service the Association has chosen is supporting the high school JROTC programs in Okaloosa County. The Association incorporated NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc. as a 501(c)3 organization making donations tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Our Fund has been operating since approximately 1981. Jack Sirney was president of the NWFROC (our former mnemonic) during the Fund's inception. Clif Jordan was one of the early presidents and served for about 20 years. Bill Cullen, Frank Glunn and others were on the board when the Fund incorporated in 1997. In 2002 Frank Glunn became president and served until his recent demise. Bill Van Hoesen is the current president, Tammy Karamarinov is secretary-treasurer, and Bob Padden, Norm Blakley and Bob Allen serve as directors.

Okaloosa County JROTC students are beneficiaries of the Fund's awards. Each year one junior and one senior from each high school JROTC corps receives an award, plus one senior from all county high schools going on to college and continuing in the ROTC program is awarded

a scholarship. This past year the Fund provided five \$250 awards, five \$500 awards and one \$3000 scholarship award. All of these winners, and selectees from DeFuniak Springs H.S., also receive a MOAA certificate and medal. The cost of last year's awards and administration exceeded \$7,000. How do we afford that?

In 1997 an effort was begun to raise \$100,000 through member donations and community support. The plan was for the Fund to be eventually self-sustaining, after all, with 5.5% interest and awards totaling about \$2,000, it was doable even with inflation. Currently though, interest is 0.8%, and that only brings in \$900 for our fund total of \$114,000. For many years the Association has donated money, amounting to around \$1,000, raised by sponsoring the annual military ball. Also, the Fund used the opportunity to solicit area merchants and obtain goods and services to auction at the Ball, thus another \$1,000 was raised. Direct contributions, memorials, the monthly 50-50 raffle and the 500 Club make up the difference. Volunteers assist the Fund each year during the holiday season fund raising period; volunteers do not have to be Association members although most are. Volunteer workers are most active in October and November. The Fund has an established list of merchant donors and we solicit new donors, but we need help in face-to-face contact. If you can spare some time in advance of the holiday season and directly assist the youth of our county, contact Bill Van Hoesen (bvanhoesen@cox.net or 225-2957).

Officers Call at Pandora's October 10

Below (left) is chapter president Jeff Watson and Florida Council of Chapters president Jim Conner.

Below (center) is FWB Mayor Mike Anderson and Tom Churan.

Below (right) NWFMOA members having fun at the Officers Call.



Legislative Musings...

by Bill Van Hoesen



Bill Van Hoesen

As you probably know, the Pentagon will be faced with another installment of \$52 billion in cuts for FY 2014 if Congress does not take action soon. In his September column of "The Bottom Line," MOAA's

Director of Government Relations, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), explains that without a sequestration fix, DOD's budgets options go from bad to worse next year and beyond.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 chained a ticking time bomb to America's national defense capabilities and the devastating cuts from sequestration began on March 1 - resulting in furloughs, force cuts and reduced training hours. Unless Congress acts to repeal sequestration and replace it with an alternative debt reduction deal, another even more devastating round of defense cuts will be required.

While debt reduction is a national priority, such a disproportional share of this burden should not be imposed on military families who already have sacrificed more for their country than any other sector of Americans. It is time for Congress to put partisan politics aside and develop an alternative debt-reduction package that more fairly balances required sacrifices and avoids disproportional penalties for servicemembers and retirees and their families.

Ask Congress to stop sequestration now! Ask your elected officials to set aside partisan politics and repeal sequestration now. Below is a MOAA recommended letter for your use. [Extracted from MOAA Legislative Update, 20 Sep 2013]

"The Budget Control Act of 2011 chained a ticking time bomb to America's national defense capabilities, and the devastating cuts from sequestration began on March 1 - resulting in furloughs, force cuts, and reduced training hours. Unless Congress acts to repeal sequestration and replace it with an alternative debt reduction deal, another even more devastating round of defense cuts will be required.

DOD will likely resort to drastic cuts to cope with sequestration if it isn't repealed, including:

- Acceleration of force drawdowns
- Further reductions in flying hours and training drills and a 10% reduction in operations/maintenance accounts
- 15-20% cuts in modernization accounts

Ticket Order Form for the NWFMOA

Annual Military Ball to benefit the Scholarship Fund

5 December, 2013, at the Emerald Grande at Harbor Walk Village

Dress: Gowns or cocktail dress, formal or business suits.

Social hour 1800; Pay as you go bars will be open.

Dinner 1900; Dancing 2000 until 2200 with Retroactive.

Dinner will include:

First Course – Classic Caesar Salad

Choice of Entrée:

(1) Herb Crusted Roast Beef with Mushroom, wine Sauce

(2) Stuffed Chicken Breast, Basil, Prosciutto, Mozzarella, Wine Sauce

Sides: Green Beans with Cranberries & Walnuts; Mashed Potatoes.

Dessert: NY Cheese Cake with Raspberry Sauce

Dinners served with rolls, butter, iced tea and coffee

Ticket Purchaser's name: _____

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE: _____

Number of tickets: _____ times **\$50.00** = \$_____ check enclosed.

(Price includes Meal & Gratuity)

Spouse/Guest's name: _____

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE _____

When paying with cash, please provide full mailing address.

When ordering by mail include a stamped self-addressed envelope, a check payable to NWFMOA, and this form to:

NWFMOA, PO Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310.

Allow sufficient time to get your tickets returned by mail.

Ticket Order Form must be received by ***November 25, 2013.***

Table reservations may be made for groups of eight by contacting

Gayle Norgaard at **(850) 259-1155** or email: **gayleret@cox.net.**

List names of people at your table. If you are to be seated at someone's reserved table please coordinate with the reservation holder.

+++++

You are encouraged to make a charitable contribution to the Scholarship Fund by supplying an additional check made payable to: NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

Raffle tickets & Silent Auction are CASH or CHECKS only, please.

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DUES WILL BE DUE \$OON

Let's try this again. Annual membership dues are due by the end of December. To confirm your membership expiration date look at the mailing label on this copy of *The Defender* or you may have received an email. Annual dues are \$25.00 for regular members or \$12.50 for auxiliary members. If your information is **changed**, or you are interested in discounts, please refer to the membership renewal form found in this issue. Providing us with updated information ensures you'll keep updated on chapter events and national events which may affect you. Prompt payment will save the club money by not requiring us to send out invoices. Thank you in advance for your renewal!

Legislative Musings (cont.)

Continued from page 5

- Involuntary reductions-in-force to reduce civilian personnel costs and hiring freezes
- Halting all accessions, promotions, permanent change of station moves & discretionary bonuses.

Cutting an additional \$52 billion from the defense budget for the next fiscal year would be a disaster as we continue to send our service men and women into harm's way in Afghanistan and face potential threats from elsewhere. While debt reduction is a national priority, such a disproportional share of this burden must not be foisted on the backs of military families who already have sacrificed more for their country than any other segment of Americans.

Please put partisan politics aside and develop an alternative debt reduction package that fairly balances required sacrifices and avoids disproportional penalties for servicemembers, retirees, and their families."

Addresses for our representatives:

Sen. Marco Rubio, United States Senate, 284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 20510.

Sen. Bill Nelson, United States Senate, 716 Senate Hart Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

Rep. Jeff Miller, 336 Cannon House Office Building Washington DC 20515.

President's Message (cont.)

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As we move forward in the year, we have our November breakfast at "the Westwood" ahead of us. We will hear from one of our 53rd Wing fighter pilots, Major Zachary "Camel" Bartoe. The 53rd is an operational test wing for Air Combat Command, so make plans to come out and hear what the Air Force is "up to" (pun intended). As you know, things happen and last month, our guest speaker from the 1st SOW was unable to accommodate our speaking request for 1 October due to the partial Government shutdown. We received notice of cancellation the afternoon before our breakfast meeting. Fortunately, one of our own members, Major (Ret.) Dave Parisot, Okaloosa County Commissioner, was gracious enough to step in and present the latest on the RESTORE Act, as funds from the 2010 gulf oil spill are currently being made available to the eight gulf counties in our region.

It is a curious time in the nation's Capitol. The only way you can sit on the bench and not "choose sides" is to turn off all electronic media and leave the newspaper rolled up. For me, that's impossible. Thank goodness we have an effective advocate in Washington. That's right – our folks at MOAA! Regardless your political perspective, a great way to share your thoughts to the many politicians in "the beltway" is to let your MOAA team know what is on your mind. They may or may not be of like mind, but you will have the opportunity to discuss issues associated with military service and veterans' causes with them.

As I drink a cup of coffee from my favorite fall cup – vintage 70s or 80s (Judy would know exactly when and where we got it or from whom) when brown was in style (remember 'mud' shoes?), I think about the fall wreath that Judy hung and the pumpkin to carve. Note to self: go to the church Pumpkin Patch on Hwy 98 to pick out the to-be-carved pumpkin. And finally, I hope all of you who read this are making plans to attend our NWFMOA Military Ball in December! Lt Col (Ret.) Gayle Norgaard has been working hard all year on this and it has really taken shape. The ticket request form is available as are tickets! Don't wait until the last minute: put NWFMOA Military Ball on your calendar for 5 December at the Emerald Grande, get out your SASE and put a check in the mail to us now so that we can all have fun together. Until we meet again, we are ADJOURNED!

Jeff Watson

* "Teench" – a small amount of something. A NWF true native word – ask Judy.

It's Baaaaaaaack!

After much legal obfuscation (redundant terms, I admit), the chapter's answer to "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" is back--The Raffle! So if you've avoided the monthly meeting due to the absence of games of chance, avoid no longer. Last month, the raffle donated money to two very worthwhile and charitable causes: 1) the Scholarship Fund, and 2) Nancy Prater. Next month, the second one could be YOU!

? Got a Chapter question?
? Change in personal info?
? Comment?
? Don't know who to ask?
? Email: info@nwfmoa.org
? We'll get an answer for you.

DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$ _____ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.*

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

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:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

Mail payable to: NWFMOA Scholarship Fund,
P.O. Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310

*TAX EXEMPT UNDER IRS CODE SECTION 501(c)(3).
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Those of us at Westwood Retirement Resort would like to say to all our veterans, "Thank you for your service. Thank you for protecting our freedom."

And should the time come that you wish to make the move to a retirement community, it would be our honor to serve you. At Westwood Retirement Resort you can enjoy the best years of your life and have access to our on-campus Healthcare Center for short-term rehab or long-term care.


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Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you do not want your name, phone number or email address listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership includes a subscription to The Defender for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.
**The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.

Membership Application/Renewal

New Members joining in 2013 receive membership through December 31st of 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
86 - 90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81 - 85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76 - 80	195.00	-50	395.00

Auxiliary Members
Pay one half of the above rates