



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 27 No. 10 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services OCTOBER 2021

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 7 Oct 2021
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Operation Linebacker (pt 2)
Karl Eschmann (Col Ret)

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 nwreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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Operation Linebacker (part 2)

Please join us for our October 7th NWFMOA meeting. Our speaker will be our own Col Karl Eschmann who will present the second of a two-part series on Linebacker. Operation Linebacker II was a US Seventh Air Force and U.S. Navy Task Force 77 aerial bombing campaign, conducted against targets in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) during the final period of US involvement in the Vietnam War. The operation was conducted from 18 to 29 December 1972, leading to several informal names such as "The December Raids" and "The Christmas Bombings". Unlike the Operation Rolling Thunder and Operation Linebacker interdiction operations, Linebacker II was to be a "maximum effort" bombing campaign to "destroy major target complexes in the Hanoi and Haiphong areas, which could only be accomplished by B-52s". It saw the largest heavy bomber strikes launched by the U.S. Air Force since the end of World War II. Linebacker II was a modified extension of the Operation Linebacker bombings conducted from May to October, when the emphasis of the new campaign shifted to attacks by B-52s rather than smaller tactical fighter aircraft. The Linebacker II bombing was deemed a



Col (Ret) Karl Eschmann

success because in its wake, the North Vietnamese returned to the negotiating table, where the Paris Peace Accords were signed less than a month later. Our POWs were released quickly thereafter. Please join us for what will be an interesting and informative session.

Our meeting will continue under existing CDC and Fort Walton Yacht Club COVID-19 restrictions. For those who have been fully vaccinated, wearing a mask is optional. However, if you are showing symptoms or feeling ill or feverish, PLEASE do not attend.

From the President's Pen

By Michael Griffith

The month of October includes Columbus Day, the national holiday commemorating the famous sailor and navigator whose voyage across the Atlantic led to the European discovery of the New World. Although Columbus never set foot in what is now Florida, his initial discovery paved the way for many other Spanish and European explorers who, in turn, explored the New World, and established colonies which led, over several centuries, to the establishment of what is now the United States of America, as well as all the other nations that now inhabit the North and South American continents and the islands of the Caribbean.



Mike Griffith,
NWFMOA President

“Columbus,” said the late Dr. J. Rufus Fears of the University of Oklahoma, “is the supreme example of a man or woman of destiny – that is, a person who has one specific mission in life, and lucky they are if they are able to pursue it. They are meant to do one thing; everything that happens before that is of minimal importance and everything that happens afterwards can be a disaster.”

Columbus, said Fears, was known even before his famous voyage as an expert seaman and navigator, who had devoted years to studying the writings of such explorers and scholars as Marco Polo and Ptolemy. He was born in about 1451 in Genoa Italy, which was then the center of Europe's trade with the Far East, including China, Japan, and India.

That trade, however, became much more difficult in 1453, when the city of Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks under Sultan Mohammed II. Europeans began looking for

Continued on page 5

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members:

Chris Caravello, Col, USAF
Tom Gainer, Lt Col, USAF

In Memorium

None

HAVE A BALL

**Ticket Order Form for the
NWFMOA Annual Military Ball
to benefit the Scholarship Fund**

WHEN: Thursday, 9 December 2021

WHERE: Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club

DRESS: Mess Dress, Gown or cocktail dress, formal or business suit.

SOCIAL HOUR: 1800; Pay-as-you-go bars will be open.

DINNER: 1900; **DANCING:** 2000 until 2200 with
“Purple Monkey Band.”

Dinner will include:

First Course: Spinach, Mandarin, & Pecan Salad
with Raspberry Vinaigrette

Choice of Entrée:

(1) 10oz Bone in Pork

(2) Chicken Picata

Sides: Twice Baked Potato and Green Beans Almondine

Dessert: New York Cheesecake

Dinners served with rolls, butter, iced tea, and coffee

Ticket Purchaser's name: _____

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE: _____

Number of tickets: _____ times **\$60.00** = \$ _____ with check enclosed.

(Price includes Meal & Gratuity)

Spouse/Guest's name: _____

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE _____

When ordering by mail include a check payable to
NWFMOA

and send this form to:

NWFMOA, PO Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579.

Ticket Order Form must be **RECEIVED** by

Thursday, December 2, 2021.

Table reservations may be made for groups of six by contacting

Karl Eschmann at (850) 621-7482 or email: phanfix@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.

All proceeds from raffle ticket sales go to providing scholarships for JROTC cadets.

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

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.

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

THE WALL THAT HEALS

Have you walked along worshipfully and seen the 58,279 names on the Veterans Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC? Three million served in the war. Last month one of several traveling panels was in Champlain, NY (a small village a few miles from the Canadian border). This one is called "The Wall That Heals" and is 300 feet in length and six feet high at the center point. As you may know many cannot travel to the original, so in the 1980's these replicas embarked to over 600 communities across our great nation.

What was unique about this exhibit was the large screens on both sides of an accompanying 40 foot camper with names and photographs of the local Adirondack servicemen and women. Guides would look up names and escort you to the respective panel. There were a few window exhibits with uniforms and military gear. Music flowed as the attendees walked in a solemn gait.

The unusual July weather was in the 50's and it rained hard all weekend, but the soaked crowds kept swelling. My wife and I watched many families, young and old, who were connected to those fallen men and women. We learned that 11,000 women served in Vietnam; there are 8 nurses named on the memorial wall.

Old friends reunited. Relatives remembered. Grandchildren discovered heroism. Almost everyone felt the healing spiritual and emotional touches. Tears merged with the rain drops.

Within a few weeks Afghanistan was in the headlines. Some were drawing parallels. Friends felt anger, remorse, pride and compassion—feelings were spread across the spectrum of the hearts and minds of many.

My AFSOC time overlapped with this 20 year war. We were responsible for calling and filling the slots for chaplains and their assistants around the world to fill a rotation.

Chaplains were involved in the mandatory 'return home' debriefing and personal counseling for each airman. Dover AFB was a requiem assignment for the compassionate pastor who walked with the transfer of the deceased in stainless containers and not coffins. Some families chose solitude and no media. Chaplains held up families, praying and sharing words of comfort.

Most importantly chaplains and their assistants conducted and participated in the religious services and military internment

across the 50 states to honor the many young and beloved men and women who patriotically raised their unselfish hand to deploy, engage and liberate the nation our leaders sent them to.

This past August has been a time for retirees to share their varied emotions. It's difficult but our shared experiences help us to make sense of the confusing emotions others have expressed. MOAA members don't yell from the bleachers like arm chair quarterbacks! We look within and we look up to God in respect and humility.

Chaplain's hot washes reveal several expressions from those in counseling: "We fight for our brothers and sisters who we deploy with... politicians are not the rock we stand on... it's for our buddies, our families and the way of life we have been blessed to experience that we find strength and determination to fly, fight and win... we uphold our core values while infusing the host nation with our Judeo-Christian principles and democratic practices... we want them to have the same freedoms we have."

In the end it's God Almighty who gives each warrior and their loved ones their crown.

Chaplains often read from Psalm 91. King David's words provided hope.

"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
Will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
He is my God, and I trust Him.
For He will order His angels
to protect you wherever you go.
The Lord says, 'I will rescue those who love me.
I will protect those who trust in my name.
When they call, I will answer.'"

We thank GOD for protecting so many of us and that DoD goes above and beyond to honor those who gave their life on the battlefield.



Community Outreach

By: Dave Parisot

Charlotte Eschmann Inducted into Okaloosa Hall of Fame; NWFMOA Presents Commissary Cards for Young Enlisted Families

On August 23, 2021, Charlotte Eschmann was inducted into the Okaloosa County Hall of Fame by the Okaloosa County commission on the Status of Women (OCCSW) in the Military category. Charlotte is the wife of Chapter member Karl Eschmann, Colonel, USAF, Ret. At her induction ceremony, Charlotte was described by “her service to the nation has run the gamut from Aircraft Maintenance



Charlotte Eschmann

Technician (F-4 crew chief) to Administrative Specialist at Aeronautical Systems Division. In 1997 she returned to Okaloosa County with Karl and transitioned from ‘Service in’ to ‘Service to’ our military. Armed with Master’s Degrees in Counseling and Psychology, and State licenses in mental health, post traumatic stress disorder treatment, and cognitive behavioral therapy, she worked with Veterans and their families as hospice caregiver and grief counselor. She also assisted bereaved families in obtaining documentation for survivor benefits. She has been Hurlburt Field’s nominee for the Women in the Armed Services’ Defense Advisory Council and a recipient of the USAF Angel Pin Award for outstanding volunteer service.” At her induction ceremony, Charlotte’s contributions to society and Okaloosa County were described in three words: Service Before Self. We heartily congratulate Charlotte Eschmann for her selection to the Okaloosa County Hall of Fame.

2021 MOAA Foundation Grant: On September 3, 2021, Chapter President Michael Griffith and Community

Continued on next panel

Outreach Liaison Dave Parisot presented ceremonial checks to representatives of the Eglin First Sergeants Council, the Hurlburt First Sergeants Council, the 7th Special Forces (A) First Sergeants Council, and the Hurlburt Airmen and Family Readiness Center at the First Friday breakfast of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce. This breakfast was attended by approximately 250 local business members. The ceremonial checks represented the values of the commissary gift cards for airmen and soldier families in ranks E-4 and below. The ‘checks’ totaled \$5,050 and provided 202 gift cards of \$25 each. The funding consisted of a grant of \$3,750 from the MOAA Foundation and \$1,300 in donations by Chapter members for our 2021 Community Outreach project. This project is right in line one of MOAA’s legislative priorities for 2021 to attain a Basic Needs Allowance in the Military Hunger Prevention Act (H.R 2339 an S. 1488). This legislation would provide an estimated \$400 monthly subsidy to service members with a household gross income at or below 130% of their location’s poverty line, as well as financial education resources.



From left, Chapter President Mike Griffith, MSgt Brooke Scott (Hurlburt Airmen & Family Readiness Center), SFC Aaron Malsam (7th SF(A) First Sergeants Council), MSgt Freddie Tovar (Hurlburt First Sergeants Council), MSgt Louis Dewitt (Eglin First Sergeants Council), and Dave Parisot (Chapter Community Outreach)

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.



The Navy Song: “Anchors Aweigh”

Stand Navy out to sea, fight our battle cry!
We'll never change our course so vicious foes steer shy-y-y-y!
Roll out the TNT, anchors aweigh!
Sail on to victory, and sink their bones to Davy Jones, hooray!

Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors Aweigh!
Farewell to Foreign Shores, we sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay;
Through our last night ashore, drink to the foam,
Until we meet once more, here's wishing you a happy voyage home!

Blue of the mighty deep, Gold of God's great sun;
Let these our colors be, Till All of time be done-n-n-ne;
On seven seas we learn, Navy's stern call:
Faith, courage, service true, With honor over, honor over all.

President's Pen (cont.)

Continued from page 2

alternatives to the overland Silk Road to Asia, such as a sea route around Africa.

Columbus's studies had convinced him that it would be possible to reach Asia by sailing westward across the Atlantic, and had calculated that such a voyage could be done in a little more than a month, near the limit of what contemporary sailing ships could endure with as much food and water as they could carry. Had he paid more attention to the work of such ancient Greek mathematicians as Eratosthenes, who had calculated the size of the earth in about 2200 BC, Columbus might have known that his calculations, based on the works of Ptolemy, predicted his voyage to be about 1500 miles shorter than it would actually have been had he gone all the way to Asia. If the New World not been where it is, Columbus would have failed to reach Asia.

Landing on an island, probably in what is now the Bahamas, Columbus claimed the area for his chief investor, King Ferdinand of Spain. Columbus was initially hailed as a hero in Spain because of his discovery, and he made three more voyages to and from the New World, but each of those voyages proved to be less successful than the one preceding it, and Columbus never found the gold or other riches he had hoped for, nor did he find a route to Asia.

Also, Columbus's notoriety made him some powerful enemies among the Spanish nobility, and during his third venture, according to Fears, he was slandered by some of the gold-hunting nobles who had accompanied him. They accused him of brutalizing the natives and of unlawfully executing some Spaniards, although Fears contends that the mistreatment of natives was more likely committed by some of the same people who accused Columbus. Columbus, said Fears, was known as a man of great integrity and sincere Christian faith.

The accusations made against Columbus may have contributed to some of the controversy that now surrounds him, to include the tearing down of some statues of Columbus in major American cities.

Dr. Marie Hallion, Education Chair for the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, said in a phone interview that she preferred not to take sides on the controversies surrounding Columbus, but that debating such issues “would be a good subject for a symposium, with documentation.”

NWFMOA Scholarship Form

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.

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Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

Donations for Scholarship Fund raffle at 2021 Military Ball:

Our Military Ball is on for December 9th! We will greatly appreciate any donations for the raffle. Needed are gift cards to local restaurants, and bottles of booze and wine for the ever popular “Crates of Christmas Cheer”. Please bring any donations to either the October or November monthly luncheons.

Did you attend the annual Scholarship Luncheon on May 6th, or did you miss it? Fred Westfall, our Chapter webmaster, has posted photos with captions of the program on the Scholarship pages of our website at www.NWFMOA.org.

Century Club donations since my last article are by **Paul and Kathy Gerth** (in memory of Larry and Ann Shingler), **Doug Hardin** (in memory of Gen. Bill Kirk), **George Colton** (in memory of Larry and Ann Shingler), and **Kevin Kirby**. Thank you for supporting the Scholarship Fund. The 50/50 raffle at the September luncheon was won by Pat Johnson. Total ticket sales were \$186 with \$93 to Pat and \$93 to the Scholarship Fund. Pat graciously donated his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund, so the fund got \$186. Thank you, Pat. My thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets.

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 2019 and 2020 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets. [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** (August 2019); **Fred Boyer** (August, 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** (April 2021); and, **Scott & Janet Berry** (May 2021). [Note: 30 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): November 2020: **Bob Gramm** (R); **Larry Tashlik** (R); **Howard Fisher** (R); and **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R); December 2020: **Robert “Pete” Peterzen** (R); **Dennis Phillips** (R); **Craig Miller**; **Jesse & Kathy Bush** (R); **Larry Bush** (R); **Scott & Janet Berry** (R); **Patrick Boab** (R); and, **Jeffrey Watson**; **Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Bob Garcia** (R); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Chris Beam** (R); **Les Matheson** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Mrs. Chong Parisot); and, **Patt & Caroline Maney**. January 2021: **Fred Westfall** (R); **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); February 2021: **Rod Gerdes** (R); and **Chris Beam** (R); March 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); April 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 Lt.Col. Sam Lombardo); August 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**; September 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).

2019/2020 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): October 2019: **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (\$1,000) (R).

2019/2020 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): December 2019: **Eglin Federal Credit Union** (R); **Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass, Senior Financial Advisors)** (R); **Silver Slipper Casino Hotel** (Bay St. Louis, MS) (In-Kind); May 2021: **Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass)**.

2020/2021 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2019: **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind, R); December 2019: **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind, R).

2021 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): R); May 2021: **Eye MD of Niceville** (R)

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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
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**The spouse of a deceased life member is automatically an auxiliary life member

