



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 28 No. 10

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

OCTOBER 2022

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thursday, 6 Oct 2022
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: Richard Hallion
"Breaking the Sound Barrier 75 Years Later"

MAKE A RESERVATION

- Reservations are Required
 - Wear a name tag
 - Bring proper change: \$16 each
- Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at <http://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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Breaking the Sound Barrier... 75 years later

Dr. Richard P. Hallion

Please join us for our October 6th NWFMOA meeting. Our speaker for the October meeting is Dr. Dick Hallion, who will speak on "The 75th Anniversary of Chuck Yeager's breaking the sound barrier" and will share his personal experiences about that program. October 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of the first supersonic flight, a milestone in aerospace history. Accordingly, Dr Hallion will present the background and story of that flight, during which Air Force test pilot Captain Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager became the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound. Supersonic flight radically transformed subsequent aviation history, and its legacy is far-reaching, including the national space program. All this will be explored by Dick who, as a Smithsonian curator in the 1970's, had charge of the original Bell X-1 research airplane.

Our **October 6th** lunch will start with a social gathering at 1130 with the meeting beginning at 1200 followed by lunch. To make reservations click <http://nwfmoa.org/reservations.html> or go to the [NWFMOA webpage](http://nwfmoa.org) and select the [Online Reservations](#) link. You may also call me at 850-609-8075 or email me at nwfreservations@gmail.com.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** (no walk-ins please) and must be made by no later than **October 1st, 2022.**

Fred Westfall
Secretary

Save the Date

Annual MOAA Military Ball Reminder, 8 December 2022

Our annual Military Ball will resume this year again and is scheduled to be on Thursday, 8 December 2022 at the FWB Yacht Club. The dinner menu will be similar to the last Ball in December 2021. This year we will again be charging our members and guests \$60 per person. The ticket order form will be in the digital Defender in October and November. Just a reminder: the dress for the men at the Ball is Mess Dress (if it still fits), formal, tuxedo or business suit. For the ladies it is Gown or Cocktail Dress.

The Band at our Ball will be the Brighton Street Band. They are led by Doug Chambers and are composed of three Band Members. They have agreed to perform for four hours from the start of the social hour, through dinner, and after dinner dancing. They play all types of music, not real loud, some Christmas music, and also patriotic songs. A good fit for our crowd. So if anyone has any specific questions about the Ball, please email either Karl Eschmann, phanfix@cox.net) or Dick Solt at richdulce@aol.com .

Just to refresh everyone's memory on the Ball Night's program, it will look like this:

-) 1800: Social Begins; Pay as you go Bar; Soft Band music (Scholarship Fund Raffle begins)
-) 1845: Call to Dinner
-) 1900: Opening Remarks by the MC, Invocation, presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, President's Remarks and toasts
-) 1920: Dinner is served (soft music by the band)
-) 2000: Break
-) 2015: Dancing to Brighton Street Band music
-) 2100: Scholarship Raffle winning tickets announced by Dave Parisot
-) 2115-2200: More dancing to music

At some point soon, Dave Parisot, our Scholarship Chairman, should be soliciting for items and gifts from businesses and individuals for the Scholarship Raffle fundraiser event during the Ball. This year is the 40th Anniversary for our Scholarship Program, so please be generous with your contributions to this great program.

We hope to see as many of you all as possible this year, as well as active military and other guests at our event! We need your attendance and support for the Ball to have a good social setting for our members to start the Christmas Season! Please send in your checks and ticket forms by the end of November so we can turn in the estimated number of meals for the yacht club staff.

To fill out a reservation form, go to http://nwfmoo.org/ticket_2022.pdf

From the President's Pen

By Mike Griffith

Fun things to come

There are several fun and interesting events coming up for NWFMOA members.

First, there will be our monthly luncheon and meeting at the Ft. Walton Beach Yacht Club, on Thursday, 6 Oct. As usual, we will meet to socialize at about 1130, and the meeting will be called to order at noon, followed by lunch and an interesting presentation about how the sound barrier was broken.

On the following Thursday, at 1700, we will be having an Officer's Call at Cheers pub in Shalimar. Our officer's calls are informal gatherings at which NWFMOA members can get to know one another, share a meal, and generally hang out and have a good time.

For anyone who was adopted as a child, or has ever adopted a child, placed a child for adoption, or been involved in an adoption, there is an excellent movie on that subject currently showing at 1900 each evening at the AMC theater in the Destin Commons shopping center through at least 15 September, and possibly other local theaters. After that, it may be extended, and may soon become available on disc or for download at <https://lifemarkmovie.com/>.

The PG-13 movie tells the true story of a boy's adoption, as experienced by the boy himself, his birth and adoptive parents, grandparents, siblings, and others. It combines drama and humor, tells an interesting story without gunplay or car chases, and is very well made.

As the grandfather of two adopted kids, and having been half-adopted myself (long story), I thoroughly enjoyed it. Fun for the whole family. The PG-13 movie, called **Lifemark**, tells the true story of a boy's adoption, as experienced by the boy himself, his birth and adoptive parents, grandparents, siblings, and others.

On 8 December, NWFMOA will hold its annual military ball, starting at 1800. There will be food, music, dancing, and other fun. Mark your calendars, and sign up at http://nwfmoe.org/ticket_2022.pdf.

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.



Update Your Contact Information

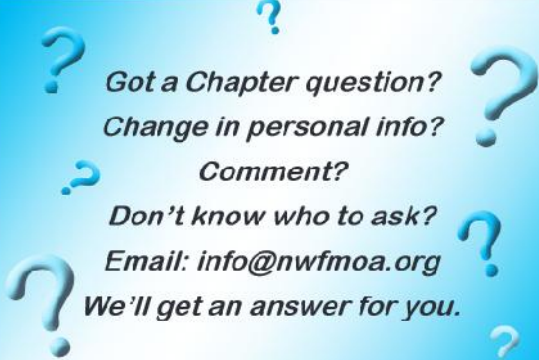
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If any of your vital information has changed, like if you've moved and have a new mailing address, or a new phone number or email address, please use the Update Your Information link on our NWFMOA website.

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The information you provide helps us keep in touch with you and is **ONLY** used by the NWFMOA

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Never Stop Serving

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

The mountain leaves of the Adirondack range is a flowing kaleidoscope. There is a magnificent variety of trees much different than the flatlands of Florida. There are dutch elm, white and yellow birch, willow varieties, maple, cedar, pine, walnut, and the list goes on. Their exquisiteness is visible catches the eye and breath of the casual observer; however their beauty is born in the entrenched roots that go deep and wide. The strength and longevity of these visible trees depends on the invisible roots. Their height attracts a multitude of birds and animals.

Humans are much the same. The character, integrity and happiness of an individual is “rooted” not only in the nurture of the home, school and social institutions, but in his or her private unseen relationship with Almighty God.

My mindful thoughts, spoken words and expressed actions are the result of the invisible spirit.

I ask softly- Do we spend our time reading the Bible, private devotions, worship, fellowship and christian charity?

Have we made an initial wise choice to commit our lives fully or partially to God?

Have we acted in ways that exemplifies a godly life?

Do we share our gifts and talents with other people, to help them find the light in these challenging dark times.

How deep, wide, high, long and spiritually dense is our personal relationship with God?

King David writes in Psalm 1 that gaining wisdom is key to a good life.

“Oh the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around sinners, or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

They are like trees firmly planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.”

Over the decades, Mary and I have taken shoots from several trees and planted them in critical locations around our home; some provide shade, others act as a bulwark against the winter ice and winds, and some are there to keep the wetlands dry. We place them in positions that please the eye and also work with nature to keep the hummingbirds, butterflies and an endless variety of birds happy. They all give us such delight to watch their interactions.

I believe our roots are inextricably interwoven with our natural and spiritual families. Our omniscient, omnipotent and all loving God has a plan and purpose for each of us. We were loved while “we were still in our mothers womb”. Our call to the military was part of that plan. Through all the harsh winds, while we faced many physical, mental, emotional and spiritual challenges and obstacles, we overcame. We became better people. They taught us patience, trust, loyalty, camaraderie, and teamwork.

We had failures, lost loved ones. However, when we were at our lowest, someone came and expressed heavenly love and compassion. And when we really messed up, God gave us undeserved mercy and

liberating grace. It's not easy but we have always found a purpose in our life, rooted in our trusting relationship with God.

Hopefully at the end of our life, people will say we did our best to conform to Christ words and example and to the biblical lifestyle. We didn't seek the approval of the irreligious masses. We didn't lie, cheat or steal. We acted like virtuous children in the family of God. We were kind, loving, faithful, gentle and generous to others. We stayed on the "King's highway".

As we live out our remaining years, we realize that there are not many years of runway left! Hopefully we can live a life that honors God. We can love our family and friends with purity and humility, and can be compassionate and generous to those who are hurting and in need.

Yes, the media does fire hose us with so much info, and things are not always as they seem. However, those invisible roots in your life have been your strength and many branches that you have have been the resting place for family and friends, comrades and neighbors. So I encourage you to take this time to be holy, and prune those unhealthy branches. Many a cemetery is in the midst of large trees; we want more than birds to visit us.

Community Outreach

By: Dave Parisot

Estate Planning Council of the Emerald Coast Fifth Annual Estate Planning Seminar (Oct 20th); **ODA595 Horse Soldier Community Celebration Banquet** (Oct. 22nd); **FWB Chamber Military Family and Veterans Appreciation Day** (Nov. 5th); and, **Mary Esther Veterans Day Parade** (Nov. 11th)

We have many community events coming up in October and November with military connections of interest to our membership. I have provided info on each event in the order they occur. In last month's article I provided info on two local events to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the United States Air Force. I hope many of our membership were able to attend these events and had an enjoyable time.

Firstly, the **Estate Planning Seminar** by the Emerald Coast Estate Planning Council will be held on Thursday, October 20th at 1:00PM at The Island Resort on Okaloosa Island (1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy) (see flyer below). Precious seminars have been held at NWFSC and were attended by quite a few of our Chapter members. The seminars are put on by a variety of financial planners, estate attorneys, certified public accountants (CPAS), and others from various local firms. Their seminars are 'generic' in nature and they do not try to sell you anything. They do, however, try to provide current updates to retirement investment rules/laws, the changing IRS rules on estate and retirement taxation, and estate planning and trusts. Complimentary snacks and refreshment will be provided to all attendees with a Cocktail Reception to be held at the lobby bar with free hors d'oeuvres and a complimentary drink ticket for each attendee. See the flyer below for additional info and how to register in advance for this event.

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PLANNING TOO!**



**5TH ANNUAL
ESTATE PLANNING DAY**

Presented By:



ESTATE PLANNING COUNCIL
OF THE EMERALD COAST

**Thursday, October 20, 2022 @1pm
The Island Resort, Fiji Room
Fort Walton Beach**

For more information go to:
<https://www.emeraldcoastestate.org>

FREE ADMISSION

RSVP ENCOURAGED

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Join the Emerald Coast Estate Planning Council on Thursday, October 20th at The Island Resort, Ft. Walton Beach for our Fifth Annual Estate Planning Day. This free to attend educational event, is open to the public and will host a panel of local professionals on topics of interest regarding estate planning. Guest speakers will be discussing the importance of proper estate planning and related topics as an educational and informative service to the community. Complimentary snacks and refreshments will be provided to all attendees. The day will culminate with a Cocktail Reception at the lobby bar. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and each attendee will receive one complimentary drink ticket. Cash bar available.

Estate planning encompasses the growth, conservation, and transfer of an individual's wealth through the creation and maintenance of an "estate plan." The purpose of estate planning is to develop a strategy that will maintain the financial security of individuals through their lifetime and ensure the intended transfer of their property and assets at death, while taking into consideration the unique circumstances of the family and the potential costs of different methods.

This event is brought to you by The Estate Planning Council of the Emerald Coast, Inc. EPCEC is the professional "organization of choice" for multi-disciplinary estate planning professionals from across Florida's Emerald Coast. Members include accomplished Estate and Elder Law Attorneys, CPA's,

Financial Advisors, Insurance Consultants and Trust Officers. The EPCEC is an affiliated council of the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils.

RSVP is strongly encouraged. You can register for the free event and RSVP at: <https://estateplanningday.eventbrite.com>

Secondly, on Saturday, October 22nd, is the **ODA595 Horse Soldier Community Celebration Banquet** at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds on Lewis Turner Blvd, FWB. The ODA 595 Horse Soldier story is similar to that of the Doolittle Raiders. The first unit deployed after the U.S. had been attacked on home soil. Maybe you've seen the movie "12 Strong" or heard the story of the ODA 595 Horse Soldiers. The Horse Soldiers have never had a reunion to celebrate their accomplishments or to accept celebratory recognition for their mission. (For more info on "How the Horse Soldiers helped liberate Afghanistan from the Taliban 18 years ago", please go to www.wamilitary.com/how-the-Horse-Soldiers-helped-liberate-Afghanistan-from-the-Taliban-18-years-ago# .

The FWB Chamber expects 11 of the 12 original members of ODA595 to attend this event and expects to have 700 folks attend the ODA 595 Horse Soldier Community Celebration. Beer, Wine, Soda, Water, and tastings of Horse Soldier Bourbon are included with dinner. Golden Corral will provide the meal, which will be served via Cafeteria – Mess Hall Style. Tickets options will include: \$100 single person ticket; and a \$250 single person ticket which will include early entry and early seating, and access to the designated VIP Bar.

I attended a dinner last May at Bob Hope Village where Will Summers, the ODA 595 Communications Officer spoke and found his stories to be very interesting and informative.

Thirdly, on Saturday, November 5th the FWB Chamber will host **Military Family and Veterans Appreciation Day (MFVAD)** at the Landing in FWB from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. This will be the first MFVAD since 2019 (not held in 2020 or 2021 due to CLOVID-19). NWFMOA will have an information booth at this event. We need six volunteers for this event to have two members on each shift of 11AM – 1PM; 1PM -3PM, and 3PM – 5PM. To volunteer for this community service event, please contact Dave Parisot (after Oct. 2nd, please) at dparisot@cox.net or (850) 613-6545.

Lastly, on Friday, November 11th the NWFMOA will have an entry in the **Mary Esther Veterans Day Parade**. The parade goes around the Santa Rosa Mall and starts at 1PM. This year's parade theme is "Honoring All Who Served (Duty, Honor, Country)". We would to have at least a minimum of three vehicles with at least two people each in the parade (the more the merrier). We will 'form up' near the theater at Santa Rosa Mall at 12:30PM. This parade is to show respect and to honor Military Veterans; as an organization of military veterans, our participation in this parade is a way to 'give back' to our local community. Please contact Dave Parisot at dparisot@cox.net or (850) 613-6545 (after Oct 2nd, please).



Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot

NEED DONATIONS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE AT OUR CHRISTMAS BALL

We will dedicate our scholarship raffles, silent and live auctions, and other donations at our Chapter Military Ball on Thursday, December 8, 2022 to remembering the 40-year history of our scholarship program. In light of that, **it is not too early to request that your favorite restaurant of other business make a donation of either gift cards for their business or check donations (payable to NWFMOA Scholarship Fund)**. I will provide donations receipts if requested for tax purposes. We are also asking for **your donations of wine and spirits for the “Crates of Christmas Cheer” raffles**. I would like to have at least three crates (approx. 45 bottles total). Please bring your donations to our upcoming Chapter luncheon meetings.

The 50/50 raffle sales at our September luncheon were \$118 with \$59 to the Fund and \$59 to the winner who was **Bob Gramm** who graciously donated his winnings back to the Fund. Thank you, Bob.

Below is the complete list of our **Endowed Scholarships**, our **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation) and our **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 scholarships. [Note: (D) means deceased and (R) means Renewal of membership.]

Endowed Scholarships: Lt Col Jim and Mrs Una Heavener (deceased) via their estate effective 2018); **Dave Parisot** in memory of his wife, Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot) (effective 2017); and, **Dr (Lt Col) Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher** (effective 2022).

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen, (D)** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia (D)** (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 (D)** (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 (D)** (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); **George Colton** (May 2022); **Bob Secest** (May 2022); **Bob Gramm** (August 2022). [Note: 35 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): 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 Kirby (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 & Mrs Connie Hendricks** (R); May 2022: **George Colton** (R); **Bob Secrest** (R); **Mark Lombardo** (In memory of LTC Sam Lombardo); **Larry Bush** (R); June 2022: **Dr. Howard and Mrs Irene Fisher** (R); **Anonymous** (In honor of Dr Howard Fisher); **Dick Solt** (R); **Scott and Janet Berry** (R); **Janet Ryan Taylor** (R); July 2022: **Al Bills** (R).

2021 Business Gold Donors (\$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) 2021/2022 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): Nov 2021: **Lee Nissan of FWB** (R); **Buffalo's Reef** of FWB (in-kind)(R); **Mary's Kitchen** of FWB (in-kind)(R); **Painting With a Twist** of FWB (in-kind)(R); **Repeat Street Thrift Store** of FWB (in-kind); Dec 2021: **Tammy's Journeys** of FWB (In-kind)(R); **Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen** of FWB (In-kind)(R); **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (In-kind)(R). May 2022: **Eye MD of Niceville** (R).

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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http://nwfmoa.org/files/nwfmoa_scholarship_donation.pdf

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