

## Minutes 6 February 2025 NWFMOA Luncheon

1. Luncheon called to order at Ft Walton Beach (FWB) Yacht Club by President Fran Hendricks (BG, Ret) at 12:00 Noon.
2. Invocation provided by: Chaplain Tom Azar
3. Pledge of Allegiance led by: Rob Gerdes
4. 37 NWFMOA Members and guests were present for the luncheon.
5. Announcements provided by NWFMOA President:
  - a. Jeff Watson, NWFMOA Board Member as been confirmed by State MOA as Area Vice President.
  - b. During open mike time, an Intro was conducted of MISTY flyers attending the luncheon. Also information regarding the book MISTY by Don Sheppard. It was also brought to the attention of the group that Bud Day's (NWFMOA Member) story of time with MISTY was included in the book.
6. Fran Hendricks brought up that the following US Presidents had Birthdays occurring in February: GEN George Washington; Abraham Lincoln; William Henry Harrison; and Ronald Regan. Also, the following members of NWFMOA have Birthdays in February and receive their lunch for free this month: Elvira Chicarelli and Les Matheson.
7. Ray Alexander, Bob Allen, and Bob Gramm were awarded Leadership Awards from the Florida Council of Chapters. Fran received their certificates while attending the State Convention and Training Seminar. Bob Allen and Ray Alexander were presented their awards at the February luncheon. Bob Gramm will receive his once he returns from travel.
8. Fran introduced Ted Cocoran of Ft Walton Beach Chamber who gave a brief overview of support the Chamber has provided for Military associated events. They are currently planning a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event and dinner to honor veterans of the Vietnam War. Also introduced was John Mollison, writer and film maker, who will be creating some films honoring the Vietnam Veterans.
9. After lunch, Fran introduced our guest speaker, Gwyn Armfield (BG USAF Ret) who provided an overview briefing and presentation of the proposed Air Commando Museum to be located on Hurlbert Field in the existing Air Park displays. The Air Commando Heritage Foundation is leading the effort in coordination with the USAF Museum to oversee and raise donations to assist this effort. BG (Ret) Armfield is a 28-year USAF Veteran previously served as commander of the 24<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, at Hurlbert Field. Fran presented BG Armfield with an NWFMOA Coin at the conclusion of the presentation.
10. David Parisot, President of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund Board, presented that 1 March 2025 the Jr-ROTC units from four area high schools will be competing in a Drill Competition to be held at the commando Hangar, 726 Cruz

Ave on Hurlburt Field, 08:00 – 1300 (+/-). All NWFMOA members are encouraged to attend and cheer on the Jr-ROTC participants.

11. NWFMOA will celebrate its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Valentines for Veterans at Bob Hope Village on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1430. All are welcome to come out and witness the Longwood Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> graders present their Valentines to the Bob Hope residents.
12. The Luncheon was adjourned at 13:30.
13. Next NWFMOA luncheon will be Thursday 6 March 2025 at the Ft Walton Beach Yacht Club. The March featured presentation will be Col Gib Ahl who will speak about the MISTY Operations in Vietnam. George Hanks and Dan Brown, both former MISTY Pilots will assist in the presentation.