

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
6/2/2022

LUNCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Griffith at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Mike read the invocation prepared by Chaplain Tom Azar. He then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike then asked if there were any new members or guests. Three new members were recognized. Mike presented an overview and meaning of the 7th Amendment, emphasizing its importance in civil lawsuits by giving American citizens the right to a trial by jury, among other things. Mike reminded our members that we are an all-volunteer organization and that we need members to step up and volunteer for board and officer positions so that we continue to have strong leadership well into the future.

Following lunch Mike introduced our guest speaker, John Kittler, CAPT, USN (Ret) who gave us a very detailed account of how Robert Smalls, an African-American, commandeered the Confederate Ship Planter and turned it over to the Union forces. While at great risk to himself and his crew, he sailed the ship through several Confederate checkpoints and made his way to where he handed over the ship to Union forces. The Union forces were able to obtain a wealth of intelligence information from the ship. Smalls later was made the first African-American Captain in the US Navy and later went on to be a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. A fascinating story. Following his presentation, Mike presented Capt. Kittler with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

OTHER TOPICS

Mike then asked the Officers and Board or members present if there were any comments. Dave Parisot announced the newest members of the Scholarship Fund's Gold Century Club. In lieu of the 50/50 raffle, envelopes were on each table for donations to the 2022 MOAA grant which will provide for vouchers to E-3s and below in area commissaries. Dave announced that the amount collected was \$326.

Attendance for the lunch was 36. The meeting was adjourned at 1310.

Following the lunch meeting was a Board meeting.

//signed//

FRED WESTFALL, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary
NWFMOA Chapter FL 19

Distribution: Email to board members and non-board members in attendance.