

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
3/7/2024

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The March 7th meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1205. Tom Azar gave the invocation and then Mark Clusky lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fran began the meeting highlighting our Community Outreach activities with an accompanying slide show. After opening remarks, Fran announced the presence of our past Presidents who were with us today. He then introduced our guests, three who became new members...Carmen Reynolds, Bob Hruska, and our first Associate member, Doug Stauffer. Fran then discussed several significant events that took place in the month of March. Following that, Fran presented Jim Shoff and George Hanks with their Florida Council of Chapters leadership awards.

Following lunch Fran introduced our guest speaker, Dr. (Col) Sean Hollonbeck, USA (Ret), founder of the War Horse Project. Dr. Hollonbeck started off with a bit of his background including his military assignments and activities. He then explained the purpose and workings of the War Horse Project, often becoming emotional when relating the stories of the PTSD cases he has seen at the War Horse Project. He relayed that the War Horse Project is designed to give its patrons a new outlook and chance at life. He also noted that there is no cost to veterans and that the services are also open to non-veterans. He was proud that the War Horse Project is partnering with other like-minded organizations and the Veterans Court. Following his presentation, Fran presented Dr. Hollonbeck with the NWFMOA commemorative coin. Dr. Hollenbeck also joined the NWFMOA as our newest member.

Fran then thanked Dick Solt for setting up our February Officers Call and noted that the next would on May 30 and all months in 2024 that have five Thursdays. He told the group that the President of MOAA, Lt. Gen. Kelly, will attend our 65th celebration on May 1st and will present MOAA medals to our high school juniors who are in JROTC. Paul Singleton announced that there will be a pancake breakfast to support the Boy Scouts on March 9. Dave Parisot announced the details of the upcoming Scholarship Fund luncheon. Fran then announced that we will be partnering with Zaxby's for the Military Family Appreciation Day on May 20th. Fran then discussed MOAA's Advocacy in Action focusing this month on the Expansion of Tricare coverage to Certain 'Grey Area' retirees which is also known as the "Tricare Fairness" initiative. His plan is to highlight one initiative each month and urged our members to visit the Advocacy in Action website and send letters to their representatives on these initiatives. Lastly, Fran told everyone that they should read another excellent article by Chaplain Tom Azar that will appear in the Chaplain's Corner section of the April edition of the Defender.

Fran then announced that there were 9 eligible members for the March Defender Quiz drawing. The winning name drawn by Dr. Hollonbeck was Phil Krajeck. Unfortunately, Phil was not in attendance so there was no winner this month. The answer to the question: "What year was the Pentagon dedicated?" was 1943.

Dave Parisot then held the 50/50 raffle and the winner of \$79 was Fred Schor. A total of \$79 went to the Scholarship Fund. As there was no other business to conduct, Fran adjourned the meeting at 1335.

Attendance for the meeting was 53.

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

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Members