

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
5/4/2023

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The annual Scholarship Fund awards meeting was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1210. The Niceville High School Honor Guard presented the colors. Chaplain Ray Alexander gave the invocation. The National Anthem was performed by Cadets Angelina Romano and True Phillips. Bob Allen then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fran then turned the meeting over to Dave Parisot, President of our Scholarship Fund. Dave introduced the Scholarship Fund committee, the members of the Color Guard and special guests in the audience. Following lunch Dave reminded those present of the envelopes on the table for donations to our MOAA Grant to provide gift cards for enlisted personnel in the rank of E4 and below. Contributions this year were \$369. Dave then acknowledged and thanked our Business Platinum and Gold donors for their significant contribution to our Scholarship Fund.

Following opening remarks and lunch, Dave then began the awards ceremony. He began by thanking the JROTC instructors then announced the newest members of the Gold Century Club, which included Fran Hendricks, Dan Brown and Les Mathesen. He then recognized this year's seven MOAA Medal winners and asked Fran Hendricks to award the MOAA medal to Crestview winner.

Following those awards Dave began the presentation of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund awards. This year there were three endowed scholarship awards, five "In memoriam" awards and one ROTC award totaling \$29,500. The Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot Memorial Scholarship award was presented to Cadet Paige Lettelleir of Choctaw High School. The Dr. Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship was presented to Cadet Mark Almazon from Fort Walton Beach High School. The Dr. Fred and Mrs. Janet Westfall Scholarship was presented to Cadet Jacob Herra from Navarre High School. The CDR Ivory Clyde Locke memorial scholarship was awarded to Cadet Maziah Davis from Crestview High School. The Col Richard "Dick" Prater memorial scholarship was awarded to Cadet Jeremy Figueroa-Olmeda from Choctaw High School. The Colonel Jack Gardner memorial scholarship was awarded to Cadet Kelvin Lora from Baker High School. The Colonel Donald Panzenhagen memorial scholarship was awarded to Cadet Alissa Easley from Navarre High School. The Lt Col James "Jim" and Mrs. Una Heavener memorial scholarship was awarded to Cadet Dawn Kerwin from Fort Walton Beach High School. The Colonel Douglas Hardin memorial scholarship was awarded to ROTC Cadet Kayla McCarthy from the University of South Florida.

Dave then recognized our local high school students who have been accepted into one of the service academies. They are Alexander Davidson and Olivia Beard both from Fort Walton Beach High School and Therese Sherwin from Niceville High School. The names of those receiving the awards will be in the June *Defender* and their pictures as well as the other awardees will be published on our website. Also recognized were five of our previous scholarships awardees who will be commissioned this month: AFROTC Cadet Blayne Johnson (Niceville) at UWF; AFROTC Cadet Yolanda Stallworth (Niceville) from University of Central Florida; AFROTC Cadet Cole Briggs (Baker) from Notre Dame; Army ROTC Cadet James Webb (Crestview) from UWF; and Navy ROTC Cadet Sarah Brown (Navarre) from Vanderbilt.

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Dave then presented awards and souvenirs of appreciation to two retiring JROTC instructors. Those are Colonel Mark Batcho from Fort Walton Beach High School and Major Scott Bates from Choctaw High School.

Following the awards presentation Dave turned the meeting back to Fran Hendricks. After a few concluding remarks Fran asked Chaplain Alexander to give the benediction which was followed by the group singing God Bless America. Attendance for the lunch was 97. The meeting was adjourned at 1350.

//signed//

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

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