

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
LUNCH MEETING  
5/2/2024

**LUNCH MEETING**

The annual Scholarship Fund awards meeting was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1210. The Crestview High School Honor Guard presented the colors. Chaplain Ray Alexander gave the invocation. The National Anthem was performed by Cadet Angelina Romano. Jeff Watson 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 and the 10 JROTC and 2 ROTC scholarship winners. 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 \$857. 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 Bob Gramm, Tess Bass and Larry Tashlik. He then recognized this year's seven MOAA Medal winners and asked Fran Hendricks to award the MOAA medals.

Following those awards Dave began the presentation of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund awards. This year there were four endowed scholarship awards, six "In memoriam" awards and two ROTC award totaling \$39,500. The Col William "Bill" Byerley Memorial Scholarship was presented bill's wife, Jeanne Rief, to Cadet Colonel Jade Bradley of the Fort Walton Beach High School. The Dr. Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship was presented to Cadet Victoria Beckworth from Baker High School. The Dr. Fred and Mrs. Janet Westfall Scholarship was presented to Cadet Griffin Woodley from Niceville High School. The Col Karl and Mrs. Charlotte Eschmann Scholarship was presented to Cadet Jacob Bollenbach of Choctaw High School. The Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot Memorial Scholarship award was presented to Cadet Reece Sayer of Navarre High School. The Col Hampton and Mrs. Nancy Kenaston Memorial Scholarship was presented to Cadet Alexander Bollenbach of Choctaw High School. The Major William "Bill" Van Hoesen Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Cadet Akadian Campbell of Baker High School. The Col Troy Dent Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Cadet Franchesca Howard from Choctaw High School. The Col Mel Bryant Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Cadet Lauren Bage from Choctaw High School. The Lt Col James "Jim" and Mrs. Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Cadet Angelina Romano from Fort Walton Beach High School. Dave then presented the two \$4,00 scholarships to ROTC Cadets Jeffrey Tavarez (Embry Riddle Aeronautical University...Choctaw Grad) and Cadet Logan Herron (University of Florida...Navarre Grad). Dave then recognized our local high school students who have been accepted into one of the service academies. President Fran Hendricks along with academy graduates Retired Navy Captain Mike Fisher (Annapolis), Retired Army Major Chris Beam (West Point), and Former USAF Captain Jim Shoff (Air Force Academy) presented certificates of recognition to Cadet Jesse Lee (Navarre) Cadet Brenner Mavity (Navarre) and Cadet Gennaro Smith (Navarre). All three will be attending West Point.

Also recognized were five of our previous scholarships awardees who will be commissioned this month: AF 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Kayla McCarthy from USF; Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants attending USF

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Kathrynn Dunn and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Anthony Rodas. Not able to attend today's ceremony were Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants Sean Ripley (Texas A&M) of Niceville High School, Naomi Barr (Marion Military Institute) of Crestview 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.

Dave then presented awards and souvenirs of appreciation to two retiring JROTC instructors. Those are CWO4 Jo Durm and MSG Anthony Barbour both from Crestview 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 Al Sterns leading the group in singing God Bless America. Attendance for the lunch was 122. The meeting was adjourned at 1355.

**//signed//**

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

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