

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
LUNCH MEETING  
11/5/2020

## LUNCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Nick Marotta at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Dick Solt gave the invocation. Nick then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and then in singing the Marine Corps Hymn. Nick announced that because of COVID19 restrictions, we would not be having Opus 1 at our next meeting but that he would bring some songs we could all sing. Nick recognized last month's 50/50 drawing winner, Paula Sherman, who contributed her earnings to the Scholarship Fund. Paula was not present but her husband thanked Nick for recognizing her contribution. Nick also informed the group that due to the CARES Act, single individuals or couples can get a deduction of \$300/\$600 off the top of their 2020 taxes. He also reminded folks that switching from CDT to CST is the time to make sure they replace the battery in their smoke detector.

Nick then introduced our guest speaker, Maj Gen Rich Comer. General Comer gave a very detailed account of the Mayaguez Incident of 1975, beginning with the actions that led up to the capture of the ship, telling us about the planning and execution of the efforts to retake the ship, his involvement in those activities and had some video clips to show the official after action report. Following his presentation, he answered several questions from the audience and said he would stay after the meeting to answer any further questions. Nick presented General Comer with the NWFMOA Challenge Coin.

## OTHER TOPICS

Nick reminded everyone that Veterans Day is November 11 and that there are many activities planned in our tri-county area. Nick again asked the group about their interest in attending the annual Military Ball in December. Seeing very little interest, Dick Solt suggested that we postpone the ball and possibly have it in the spring or when COVID19 issues subside. The motion was seconded and after a short discussion it was passed by the group attending this meeting. Nick reminded people to get their flu shots and consider taking the pneumonia and shingles shots while at it. He also announced that the October 29 Officers Call at Cheers had 19 people in attendance and said we may have one more this year. Nick also asked that people make sure their email addresses are up to date so that they can receive the emails sent by the NWFMOA. Nick introduced our guests; Marvin Brinkman's brother Bill, and William Sherman. Dave Parisot then gave an update on the 2020 MOAA grant. He announced we would be 143 \$25 gift cards to E4's and below at the Eglin and Hurlburt commissaries on November 14. Dick Solt gave an update on the Arlington cemetery and suggested that we send a letter stating our support for revising the rules for burial by leveling the playing field. The board will review the letter and if approved will send it to MOAA as the NWFMOA's position. Nick then told the group that he and Scott Berry had been working on the 2021 slate of officers and board members for several months and asked Fred Westfall to read the names of those on the slate. Voting on the slate will be at the December meeting. The 2021 slate includes:

**President:** Nick Marotta (unless a volunteer is found)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Mike Griffith

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** George Hanks

**Treasurer:** George Colton

**Secretary:** Fred Westfall

**Board Members:**

Dan Brown

Karl Eschmann

Fran Hendricks

Errol Hoberman

Dick Solt

Board members leaving are Bob Allen, Elvira Chiccarelli and Ken Zepp.

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Dave Parisot read the names of the latest NWFMOA Scholarship Fund Century Club then conducted the 50/50 raffle which was worth \$38. The winning ticket drawn by Rich Comer was Mike Griffith, who donated his winnings to the Scholarship Fund for a total of \$75 going to the fund.

Attendance for the lunch was 30. The meeting was adjourned at 1320.

There was no Board meeting following the lunch.

**//signed//**

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

Distribution: Email to board members.