

LUNCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Griffith at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Chaplain Tom Azar gave the invocation and then Mike led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike asked if there were any guests or new members. Rich Comer introduced his guest, retired Lt. Col Corby Martin. Terry Jensen, from Hurlburt's Retiree Affairs Office, handed out materials on the pharmacy update and Florida VA and also announced that Hurlburt will be having a Thanksgiving dinner from 11 – 1. Dave Parisot explained that instead of the 50/50 raffle there were bags on each table where we are collecting donations for Wreaths Across America and that donations would be in remembrance of members and spouses of NWFMOA who have passed. Scott Berry read the slate of officers and board for 2023. Those are: President-Fran Hendricks, 1stVP Karl Eschmann, Secretary-Fred Westfall, Treasurer-George Colton. Board members were Bob Allen, Don Panzenhagen and Dick Solt. He noted that we needed a 2ndVP and two board members. The slate will be voted upon at the December meeting. Mike reminded the group that November 11 is Veterans Day and that we should “tell our story” to those who may be unaware of our organization or personal experiences. Jim Tucker announced that there will be a meeting with Senator Marco Rubio at GI Jane's on Highway 98 on Saturday at 10AM and urged members to attend.

Following lunch Mike introduced our guest speaker, Lt Gen Bradley Heithold, USAF (RET) who was the commander of AFSOC. He first thanked the group for the good philanthropic work that we do and then asked us to help him solve the “1%” problem, meaning the issue of getting people to join the military service. He needs everyone to help recruit at all levels. He then gave his opinion on the changing DoD mission from a centralized force to a more agile, quickly mobile force in what is known as the Joint All Domain Command and Control, or JADCC, structure. That would include autonomous war vehicles for all services as well as assigning the best located and prepared service to attack the enemy rather than rely on such decisions to be made at a central planning organization. He then held a question-and-answer period which covered several topic areas. Following his presentation, Mike presented Gen Heithold with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

OTHER TOPICS

Karl Eschmann again announced the Military Ball on December 8th and stated we now have about 40 signed up but we would like to have more. Mike then asked the Officers and Board or members present if there were any comments. Dave Parisot announced that we collected \$305 in donations for Wreaths Across America. He also asked members to bring donations, monetary or spirits, for the Military Ball raffle that supports the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. Dave also announced that the MOAA grant gift cards would be handed out to the various organizations next week. Mike announced that in lieu of a speaker, the Niceville chorus “Opus One”, will perform holiday tunes.

Attendance for the lunch was 51. The meeting was adjourned at 1330.

Following the lunch meeting was a Board meeting.

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

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