

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
9/2/2021

LUNCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Griffith at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Father Stephen Voyt gave the invocation. Mike then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced our two newest members, Mike McMahon and Gary Haas, and asked members to introduce guests. Jeff Watson brought his wife Judy and Robbie Roberts brought Tony Holland. Mike then gave a very informative talk about the First Amendment to our Constitution. He brought up several interesting and divergent perspectives for the members to ponder, especially in these politically charged times. Mike then led the group in singing the Air Force song. Following lunch, Mike introduced our guest speaker, our own Col Karl Eschmann, who gave a very personal and detailed perspective on Operation Linebacker 1. He started with his role as a young maintenance officer then took us through the reasons for and the planning of Linebacker 1, giving examples of flight formations, capabilities, the loss of enemy and facilities and the results of that significant operation. Following his presentation, he opened the floor to questions.

Dick Solt announced that our next Officers Call will be at Cheers Pub in Shalimar on September 23 starting at 5PM. More information will be coming via email and online.

Karl Eschmann told the group that the next *Defender* will have a reservation for the Military Ball which will be on December 9, 2021, that they should save the date and sign up early.

Les Mattison announced that the Fort Walton Beach Chamber will host a remembrance event at Choctaw High School on Saturday, September 11 at 6PM. He also said the Fort Walton Beach police department and others will host an emergency/first responder vehicle procession and commemoration ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 11, in honor of the fallen heroes of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Events will begin at 7AM.

OTHER TOPICS

Dave Parisot conducted the 50/50 raffle. The winning ticket pulled by Karl Eschmann was Patrick Johnson, who donated his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund. The raffle brought in \$186 so that entire amount went to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

Attendance for the lunch was 51 (48 meals + 3 just attending). The meeting was adjourned at 1320.

Following the lunch meeting was a Board meeting.

//signed//

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

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