

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
LUNCH MEETING  
9/7/2023

**LUNCH MEETING**

The September 7 meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Chaplain Ray Alexander provided the prayer. He then asked Kevin Kirby to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After opening remarks, Fran relayed several important national events that happened in September including the birthday of the Air Force on September 18, and on other events that happened on September 7th. Fran then read the names of the six members who have birthdays in September and reminded the group that as a member benefit, a free meal awaits those who have a birthday during the month of our meeting.

Fran recognized the presence of past chapter presidents and then asked for members to introduce their guests. Jim Schoff introduced Duane Clark and Craig McCartney introduced his wife, Yuri Kato.

Following lunch, Fran introduced our guest speaker, Austin Bury, Legislative Representative to Congressman Matt Gaetz. Mr. Bury began with his past personal history followed by his service in the Marine Corps. He gave specific actions taken by his organization in Iraq then gave some details about what his duties and responsibilities are for Congressman Gaetz. He ended by answering questions from the members. Following his presentation Fran presented Mr. Bury with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

Fran told the group that because of a flaw in the algorithm MOAA used to evaluate the Harris Communication award for websites, the recalculation resulted in the NWFMOA website receiving a 5-Star rating...for the 6 consecutive year. He also reminded the group that the bylaws are online for their review and that we would be voting on them in November. Fran advised the group that our next Officers Call will be on November 30 at Cheers Pub in Shalimar and that in 2024 our Officers Calls will be on each month with 5 Thursdays. He also reminded the group of our December 14<sup>th</sup> Military Ball. Fran then displayed two certificates from the DAR thanking us for supporting their work in Wreaths Across America. Fran then told the members that the bags on the tables were temporarily replacing the 50/50 raffle and that the money received would go for buying commissary gift cards for E-4 and below families and to please be generous. Today's receipts came to \$252. He announced that next month our guest speaker would be Andy Weaver from the Army and Airforce Exchange Service. Fran relayed two upcoming events, the Veterans Standing Down and the Boat and Home Show, and asked for volunteers to help with those activities. He then asked Board members and others if they had any remarks. Terry Jensen then gave a brief update on activities at Hurlburt Field.

Fran then announced that there were four eligible winners for the September Defender Quiz. The winning ticket selected by Mr. Bury was Kevin Kirby, who was also celebrating his birthday today. The answer to the question: "What was the name of the short-lived U.S. Air Force program to study UFOs that immediately preceded Project Blue Book?" was Project Grudge.

Attendance for the meeting was 46 and it was adjourned at 1320.

**//signed//**

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

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Member