



THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association
www.nwfmoa.org

Vol. 18 No. 12 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services DECEMBER 2012

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed. 5 December 2012

Time: Open: 0700; Bkst: 0715;
Meeting: 0800-0900

Place: Eglin Bayview Club

Program: Niceville HS Opus One
Chorus

Eglin Bayview Breakfast

Please:

- Make a reservation
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.
\$7.00 for Club Members
\$9.00 for Non-Members

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Ken Wright at 582-6442 or send an email to: bvanhoesen@cox.net if you are attending.

Officers & Directors

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kmwrightjr@gmail.com

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November 19th--Seven Score and Nine Years Ago

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." - President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Oh! Oh! Oh! It's Opus One!

By Ken Wright

You know what time it is when Niceville High School Opus One Chorus shows up at our door steps. The holiday season begins and they start the season with us at our December monthly meeting. This honor has been with us for quite some time and it will surely get you in the spirit. The chorus is lead by Director Michael Dye of Niceville High School. Michael Dye is in his 23rd year as choral director at Niceville High School and his 37th year as a choral music educator. A native of Arkansas, he received the Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Henderson State University and the Master of

Music Education from Arkansas State University. He conducts all six of the primary choruses at Niceville High School and is the director of the choral music program. He is married to Wanda Thomas Dye. They have two sons, Dr. Matthew Norton and Timothy Norton, an Opus One alum and graduate with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Musical Theater from Florida State University.



Niceville High School Opus One Chorus

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President's Corner

“Semper Paratus”

By Ken Wright



Ken Wright

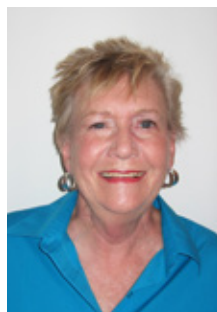
Ladies and gentlemen of this great organization, I salute you. After serving three years as the organization's Vice President and two years as President, it is time to hand over the helm. It has been an honor and pleasure to lead this organization. I have found new mentors, new heroes, and more importantly, new friends. Another great experience I have enjoyed is hearing the continued praise by the membership for our Officers and Directors. What a feeling to be part of a group of men and women who give themselves to the many causes in the community with one thing in common. They are NWFMOA members. Your sincere desire to continually serve this country is admirable and an example I hope I can live up to in my future years. As I leave, I have been pleased with the direction we continue to go in the community and I expect your new president will take it to another level. Please continue to support the organization and bring others into our fold. As we all know, it is our organization's call to duty to let our policy makers know when they are off course and when a course direction is required. In closing, thank you for your support. Thank you for your leadership and more importantly, thank you for allowing me to call you friend.

2012 Annual Northwest Florida Military Officers Association Ball

Final count-down to the 2012 Annual Northwest Florida Military Officers Association Annual Military Ball. The Emerald Grande will be hosting this event with a great menu to choose from. If you don't have your tickets and want to attend, make your plan NOW. We have limited seating. You will have three entrée choices, some great music, a dance floor awaiting your moves, and of course a silent auction. As noted before, this is one of the biggest fundraisers for the Scholarship Fund and we will have some great prizes for you to bid on. So, I hope December 6, 2012, is on your calendar and you get your Ticket Request Form mailed in soon. If we

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Membership By Gayle Norgaard



Gayle Norgaard

MOAA--A GIFT WORTH GIVING

You already know the value of membership in MOAA. Take advantage of this opportunity to give a complimentary membership to currently serving or medically retired officers you know. The complimentary one year gift memberships are open to commissioned officers and warrant officers serving on active duty or medically retired from our armed services. Giving the gift of membership is easy. Simply call the toll free at (866) 739-7109, or visit www.moaa.org/gift. If you prefer, you can fill out the postcard on the front cover of the MOAA magazine and mail it in postage free. There is no limit to gifts given. Coupon expires December 31, 2012. It's a great way to introduce the benefits of MOAA to those who can appreciate them.

**The more members, the greater voice we have to
protect our benefits!**

Member Spotlight



Clyde Locke



Chaplain Shirley

Lights in Darkness

**By Sarah A. Shirley, Chaplain,
Lt Col, FLANG**

We've all met someone who lights up the room just by walking in. We've also run across a man or woman who seems to cast long shadows wherever they roam. Which person would you rather be

around? Which person would you rather be?

Spiritual maturity is often called enlightenment. This time of year there are many religious and secular festivals that celebrate light. Municipalities and private citizens alike dress their trees with sparkling electric lights. A few brave stalwarts with good fire insurance still put real candles in their windows. We all seek to penetrate darkness with light.

Illuminating light, lightness of spirit, lightness of heart, lightness of being...different sorts of light, all drawing us in like so many moths to a flame. What is it about light that is so appealing?

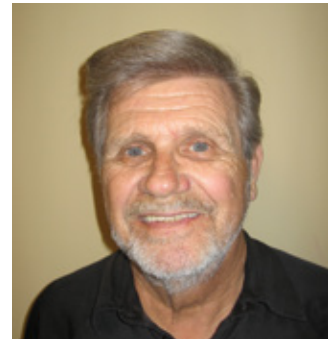
Bright light, after all, is not a panacea. Under bright lights I look every bit as tired and imperfect as I should be at my ever advancing age. In candlelight I look quite different, perhaps even dewy and lovely. Bright lights can overheat a room, and even burn things that get too close.

Still, given a choice, I'd opt for bright lights. I can always put on a blindfold to sleep or put makeup on my aging face, but without lights I can't see the nuances that make each of us different and unique. I can't see the things in my home or office that need repair. I can't find that which I've lost. I cannot make my way as easily, and I cannot find the things I need for my journey, or repair the equipment that can help me reach my goal.

The same is true for our inner selves. When we are willing to shine the bright light of self-examination on our characters it can be frightening, especially at first. What if I learn I am angry or slothful or envious? A better question is, "What if I am angry or slothful or envious and I don't know that I am?"

As the days grow shorter and darker, allow yourself to be reminded to shed light on the things about yourself you'd

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Bill Van Hoesen

With the presidential election over, defense officials are expected to announce soon military retirees and their dependents living more than 40 miles from a military treatment facility or base closure site will lose access to TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care option. These beneficiaries would be expected to shift to TRICARE Standard, their fee-for-service insurance option, which would mean an increase in out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries who are frequent users of health services. A total of 171,000 retirees and dependents are expected to have to shift coverage when remote Prime networks go away. Tentative plans are for this to occur 1 APR in the West Region, which would coincide with United Health Military and Veterans Services taking over the region's support contract from TriWest Healthcare Alliance after 16 years. The North and South TRICARE regions are expected to close down Prime service areas beyond 40-mile catchment areas of bases or base closure sites by Oct. 1, 2013, the date when current Prime enrollment periods expire for most beneficiaries. [Source: Military.com 8 Nov 2012]

Lawmakers hear the clock ticking toward deep defense and domestic spending cuts, and senior members of both parties appear poised to pass a measure during a lame duck session that would add additional time to that clock. Senior congressional Democrats and Republicans are talking openly about kicking down the road the date that would trigger separate \$500 billion, 10-year cuts to planned defense and domestic spending. Senate Budget Committee member Mark Warner (D-VA) said on 8 Nov lawmakers hope to "make a down payment" during a coming session-ending lame duck period "to avoid sequestration." He was referring to a budgeting tactic to reduce nonexempt defense and domestic accounts on 2 Jan short of a \$1.2 trillion debt-paring bill or a measure extending the sequester countdown clock. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) also continues talking about the need to delay those cuts, which economists say — when

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ARE YOUR DUES DUE? (Not yet but almo\$t!)

Annual membership dues are due by the end of December. To confirm your membership expiration date look at the mailing label on this copy of *The Defender*. If one of the top lines include 2012 your dues are due SOON. If your membership information (address, phone, email, etc.) hasn't changed simply send a check, made out to NWFMOA, to NWFMOA, PO Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310. Annual dues are \$25.00 for regular members or \$12.50 for auxiliary members. If your information is changed, or you are interested in discounts, please refer to the membership renewal form found in this issue. Prompt payment will save the club money by not requiring us to send out invoices.

An Ounce of Prevention is.....

By Leo Weeks

THIS IS WRITTEN AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT! Greetings to all our NWFMOA colleagues, friends, and family members! Since the first of September, I have been diagnosed with shingles. Although conventional wisdom states the symptoms will persist with pain, itching, and skin discoloration for some 2-3 weeks, mine have been with me now for well over two months with no indication of a near-term departure. So, the purpose of this message is to advise those of you who have had the chicken pox to get the shingles vaccine and save yourself a good deal of physical agony and lost time, such as having to cancel my classes at UWF for the first time in 10 years! We have been told at the clinics at Eglin and Hurlburt that all you need to do to get your vaccine is 1) to be 50 or over, 2) show up with your ID card, and 3) get the vaccine without further adieu. Also, it has been recently announced that if you cannot remember whether you had chicken pox, it is recommended that you receive the vaccine anyway.

Idiot-Syncrasies

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

TAPS – In Memoriam

NAME

Died

Lt Col William D. Dixon, USAF (Ret) October 20, 2012

Dolores H. Manor, spouse of September 3, 2012
Lt Gen LeRoy J. Manor, Jr., USAF (Ret)

On behalf of NWFMOA, we express our sympathy to the families of those who have passed to their eternal rest. We wish comfort for all those who grieve.

Legislative Musings (cont.)

Continued from page 3

coupled with expiring tax cuts — could send the U.S. economy into a new recession. “Lame duck Congresses aren’t known for doing big things and probably shouldn’t do big things, so I think the best you can hope for is a bridge,” Boehner told CNN on 4 Nov.

Lawmakers during the lame duck period would have just a few weeks to pass a deficit-cutting bill that would have to cover defense spending, tax reform, domestic entitlement program reform, and a score of other prickly complex issues. Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), House Budget Committee vice ranking member, also has recently called for a short-term delay. Speaking at a forum in Washington on 16 Oct, Schwartz said it would be “very tough” for Congress to pull off such Herculean work in just six weeks. She called on lawmakers to try to pass a smaller legislative package that deals with “the things we agree on,” such as extending middle class tax cuts enacted during the George W. Bush administration and establishing a sustainable growth rate for the Medicare program.

[Source: Defense News 8 Nov 2012]

So I Said.....

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they’re at home, even if you wish they were.

Surviving military spouses and children might be eligible to receive educational benefits. One program, open to military spouses and children, is the Department of Education Survivors and Dependents Assistance, or Chapter 35, program, which is highlighted below. A second program, open only to children of fallen service members, is the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, which will be highlighted in the December issue of The Affiliate. These are very different programs with very different benefits. The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship is much more comprehensive than the Chapter 35 program and is available for the surviving children of post-Sept. 11, 2001, active duty deaths. Eligible surviving military spouses and children of pre-Sept. 11, 2001, active duty or service-connected deaths are eligible for Chapter 35 benefits.

Chapter 35 provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans who were killed or died on active duty or who died of service-connected illnesses or injuries. This benefit is available to spouses and the dependent children of those veterans at the time of the servicemembers' deaths who are listed on the Report of Casualty (DD Form 1300). It offers up to 45 months of education to be used for degree or certificate programs, apprenticeships, or on-the-job training. Spouses also may take correspondence courses. Surviving military children must be between the ages of 18 and 26 to take advantage of this program. The benefits are offered for up to 10 years for most survivors whose spouses died prior to Oct. 10, 2008. Benefits for military spouses end 10 years from the date the VA finds them eligible or from the date of death of their servicemember spouses.

However, effective Oct. 10, 2008, if the VA rated a veteran permanently and totally disabled, with an effective date of three years from discharge, his or her spouse will remain eligible for 20 years from the effective date of the rating.

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Flight Safety from Yesteryear

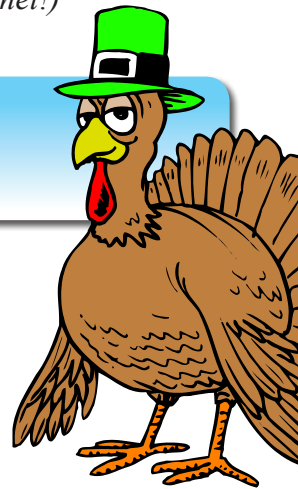
Pilots will not wear spurs while flying.

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like to improve. Take a small step to change that which you can. The more diligent we are about self-examination, self-acceptance, and self-improvement, the more we become the lighthearted beacons of life we are intended to be. Before you know it, people will say, "that's somebody who lights up the room!"

(Editor's note: Congratulations to Chaplain Shirley for her recent promotion to lieutenant colonel!)

Thanksgiving Trivia



Here are some interesting facts about Thanksgiving that each of us should know:

- The first Thanksgiving celebration can be traced back to the Plymouth Pilgrims in the fall of 1621.
- The first Thanksgiving feast was held to thank the Lord for sparing the lives of the survivors of the Mayflower, who landed at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. The survivors included four adult women and almost forty percent children.
- The Wampanoag chief Massasoit and ninety of his tribesmen were also invited to the first Thanksgiving feast. Governor William Bradford invited them for helping the Pilgrims survive and teaching them the skills of cultivating the land.
- The celebration in 1621 lasted for three days and included games and food.
- The president to proclaim the first "National Day of Thanksgiving" in 1789 was George Washington.
- Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, campaigned to make Thanksgiving a National Holiday in 1827 and succeeded.
- Abraham Lincoln announced Thanksgiving to be a national holiday in his proclamation on October 3, 1863.
- The "wishbone" of the turkey is used in a good luck ritual on Thanksgiving Day.
- Puritans of the Mayflower used to drink beer.

From the Trea\$urer

By Dan Cobbs

Thank you everyone for your membership and participation in NWFMOA activities. Together, we have set the example for continuous improvement. Together we found areas to improve that were turned into results accomplished. Some of our Chapter achievements for NWFMOA include:



Dan Cobbs

1. Military guest speakers at membership meetings
2. Designed and implemented our chapter website
3. Quarterly tours and workshops for military dependents
4. Designed and implemented NWFMOA chapter Facebook
5. By-Laws updated and posted on the website
6. Quarterly officers calls rotated to different off-base geographical locations
7. Recognition and chapter donations to Okaloosa military-related civic groups
8. Membership survey
9. Seven specific goals and objectives as our business plan for the future
10. Military ball at a "Best in Class" hotel in Destin

Overall, we became more strategic by knowing what we wanted to accomplish and then setting target assignments to implement tactics to get it done.

The new leadership slate for NWFMOA include:

OFFICERS

President..... Jeff Watson
Vice President Tom Godbold
Treasurer To Be Determined
Secretary Scott Berry

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Eileen Arpke
 2. Bob Padden
 3. Bill Van Hoesen
 4. Eddie McAllister
 5. Paul Singleton
- *Ken Wright Ex-Officio Member of the Board/Immediate Past President
** Scott Berry..... Defender Editor

I have thoroughly enjoyed actively participating in leadership positions for the chapter over the past three (3) years. It is time for me to step down as Treasurer from the board to give others a leadership opportunity to serve NWFMOA.

President's Corner (cont.)

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can assist you in getting your tickets to you in a timely manner, don't hesitate to give me a call at 850-582-6442. recognition by NWFMOA members to illustrate the many accomplishments they are making in the community, and providing an outlet for NWFMOA members to provide photos to Defender Editor for inclusive in the Defender newsletter. Update NWFMOA'S By-Laws through a bi-annually review and ensuring the membership has access to the them.

Ticket Order Form for the NWFMOA

Annual Military Ball To benefit the Scholarship Fund

- 6 December, 2012, at the Emerald Grande at HarborWalk Village
- Dress: Gowns or cocktail dress, formal or business suits.
- Social hour 1800. Pay as you go bar(s) will be open.
- Dinner 1900
- Dancing from 2000 until 2200 with Retroactive.

Dinner will include:

First Course – Classic Caesar Salad - Rosemary Olive Oil Croutons, Cracked Black Peppercorn and Parmesan Cheese

Choice of Entrée:

- (1) Grilled Flank Steak w/Portobello Mushroom Sauce with Brie Mashed Potatoes, & Medley of Fresh Vegetables
- (2) Macadamia Nut Crusted Grouper Filet sautéed with Hawaiian Fried Rice and Pineapple Buerre Blanc
- (3) Vegetarian – Vegetable Stuffed Zucchini with Parmesan, Broiled Tomato, Brie Mashed Potatoes, & Medley of Fresh Vegetables.

Dessert: Key Lime Pie

"Dinners served with rolls, butter, iced tea and coffee"

Ticket Purchaser's name: _____

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE: _____

If purchasing via mail: Address: _____

City: _____, FL Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____ times **\$40.00** = \$ _____ check enclosed.

(Price includes Meal & Gratuity)

Spouse/Guest's name: _____

CHOICE OF ENTRY: _____

You are encouraged to make a charitable contribution to the Scholarship Fund by supplying an additional check made payable to NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

Seating location is on a first come basis except at reserved tables. Table reservations may be made for groups of eight by contacting Ken Wright at (850) 582-6442 or Dan Cobbs at 850-685-9415. If you are to be seated at someone's reserved table please coordinate with the reservation holder, but tell us their name here too:

When ordering by mail please include a stamped self-addressed envelope, a check payable to NWFMOA and this form to: NWFMOA, PO Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310. Allow sufficient time to get your tickets returned by mail. Ticket Order Form must be received by November 30, 2012.

It's Opus One! (cont.)

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Not only are they making the rounds for the holiday season, they are going to focus their 2012-2013 year by saluting our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines at home and abroad. The chorus plans special performances at Okaloosa County military ceremonies and visits to the **Landstuhl Regional Medical Center** and **Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany**, during the Niceville Singers European tour next March. Profits from chorus fundraisers are being shared with the **Fisher House of the Emerald Coast**. During major chorus events, such as concerts and meetings, they are collecting items for service members that visit the **Northwest Florida Regional Airport's USO** lounge enroute to overseas deployments. With this aggressive schedule and with, of course, tight school budgets and challenging economic conditions, they need help so they may give our service men and women a treat they won't forget. So when you come to the December meeting, **bring a donation** to help them bring a smile to our brave young men and women serving this country. These singers will be grateful for your support no matter how small or large your gift may be. If you have other questions about the choral program you may e-mail Mr. Dye at dyem@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us or may call the chorus room office at (850) 833-4262.

Auxiliary Corner (cont.)

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No benefits may be paid for any training taken prior to that date. For spouses of service members who died on active duty, benefits end 20 years from the date of death.

The maximum benefit under Chapter 35 is \$987 a month. This benefit is paid for the time the student is actually in school, not by the semester. Holidays and breaks are not paid for, so the payment varies by month.

To learn more about the Survivors and Dependents Assistance program, visit http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/dea.html. For information on the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, check out the December Auxiliary Corner column. (Source: MOAA *The Affiliate*)

Why Don't....?

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

WE SALUTE YOUR SERVICE.

Now it's our turn to serve you! Come Live With Us!

Those of us at Westwood Retirement Resort would like to say to all our veterans, "Thank you for your service. Thank you for protecting our freedom."

And should the time come that you wish to make the move to a retirement community, it would be our honor to serve you. At Westwood Retirement Resort you can enjoy the best years of your life and have access to our on-campus Healthcare Center for short-term rehab or long-term care.


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Last Name	First Name	Initial	Spouse
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Address	City	State & Zip	Phone
<hr/>			
Rank	Service	MOAA mbr. no.	Email address
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Retired

Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you do not want your ☐ name, ☐ phone number or ☐ email address listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership includes a subscription to The Defender for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.

****The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.**

Membership Application/Renewal

New Members joining in 2012
receive membership through December
31st of next year for **\$25.00.**

Membership Renewal
1 yr - \$25.00, 2 yr - \$48.00, 3 yr - \$65.00
Life Membership Dues**

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91 - 95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86 - 90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81 - 85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76 - 80	195.00	-50	395.00

Auxiliary Members

Pay one half of the above rates