



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 29 No 11

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

November 2023

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thursday 2 November 2023
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: B/G Patt Maney, USA (Ret), Florida House of Representatives, District 4

MAKE A RESERVATION

- Reservations are Required
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change: \$16

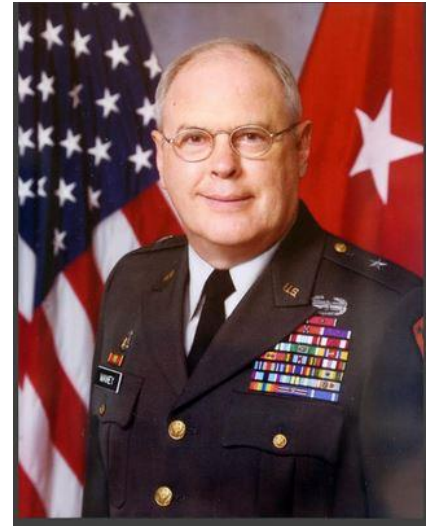
Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at <http://nwfmoo.org> and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Fred Westfall at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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Our November Meeting Features B/G Patt Maney, USA (Ret) Florida House of Representatives, District 4

Our November meeting will feature a briefing from one of our own; Florida State Representative Patt Maney. Most of us are familiar with Rep. Maney's previous talk on Veteran's Courts, which he helped to create during his tenure as an Okaloosa County Judge, and were based on his own experiences recovering from wounds, including traumatic brain injury sustained in the Middle East while serving as a flag officer in the US Army.



General Maney is currently serving as Vice Chair of the Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee, the Vice Chair of the Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, the Judiciary Committee, the Civil Justice Subcommittee and the State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee.

Brig.General/Judge/Representative Maney is definitely someone who has an extremely varied and prestigious career, and he will tell us about his experiences and accomplishments as member of the Florida House of Representatives.

We can all look forward to what he has to tell us in November, and to a lively and well-informed question and answer session with our friend, fellow NWFMOA member and elected representative.

Please join us for our **November 2nd** Membership Meeting. Click **HERE** to make reservations or call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075.

From the President's Pen

By Fran Hendricks



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Women's Veterans Memorial Park

Recently the Okaloosa County Commissioners had a public hearing on expanding the Women's Veterans Memorial Park. Several fellow NWFMOA Members spoke that day. I was proud to be counted among them. My statement follows.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. My name is Fran Hendricks, and I am proud to be a resident of Okaloosa County and Shalimar. My family and I first came to this area when the Air Force assigned me to Eglin AFB in 2002. We chose to return to the area in 2018 after I retired from my post Air Force career in higher education. My wife and I chose this to be our forever home because of its proximity to Eglin, because of the local community and its superb quality of life, as well as the friends we made while being assigned here. We wanted to be part of a community that supported the military and was led by public officials who revered the constitution and adhered to conservative ideals and values.

With my over 40 years in public service, I know firsthand the responsibility placed on each of you as you decide how best to lead our County. I respect each of you for shouldering this task and for doing what you deem to be in the best interest of us all. Today I am here to register my support for expanding the Women Veterans Memorial Park. I applaud this forum for their foresight in establishing this attraction and how it complements our community persona. Whether you live here full time or are a seasonal visitor, this park adds to the tapestry we all call home. We are a tourist destination, and this park adds an additional attraction to see while visiting. Much like the Air Force Armament Museum, in time this park will become a destination—people will visit our area because they are coming to see the park. When they do, they will be educated on the various feats of these amazing women and their impact on our Nation's history. How ironic it is, when other parts of our Country are tearing down statues and demeaning women by reducing them to "birthing person" or allowing biological males to compete against them in sports, we, on the other hand, are acknowledging women and their significant contributions to our Nation's history and its future.

Every time I visit this park, I come away inspired. When you read the plaques that accompany each statue, you marvel at the feats of these ordinary people who did extraordinary acts. Each of us has the same opportunity each day to make a difference in our community. I believe wholeheartedly that this park can change lives, to inspire greatness in all of us, young and old, male, and female. Every great accomplishment in the world started with a dream. I believe this park can and will provide the spark for future dreams and accomplishments.

So, as you grapple with County's budget and its competing priorities to fund, please take a long hard look at the return on investment for expanding this park. In addition to being another great attraction for our tourism portfolio, it has even greater potential to help educate and inspire all who see it, thereby becoming a local, State and National treasure.

Thank you.

The expansion was unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

Welcome Aboard

David Whalen, CDR, USNR (Ret)



1. What did you do in the Navy?
 - a. Navy Intelligence (USN)
 - b. Medical Service Corps (USN)
 - c. Military Sealift Command (USNR)
2. Military Service Dates: 1978 - 2010 (32 years total service time)
3. Favorite Assignment: Military Sealift Command as a Navy Reserve Officer
“...An absolute hoot”
4. Funny Story:

I think the year was 1983---I was assigned to NAS Millington Naval Hospital as a Medical Service Corps Officer—LT j.g.- I had the joy of being TAD/TDY assigned to C-4 Training as an instructor at the Camp Bullis location. Docs of all ranks would come there to perform Advanced Trauma Life Support training, and then enjoy about 10 days out in the cactus patch. Camp Bullis is an old POW camp from WWII and certainly looked like it! My job was to certainly protect these senior officers, many of them being O-6, and teach them wordsmanship, cross country navigation and survival on a battle field so they could save others.

I was “privileged” to enjoy this Texas garden spot, in wood shanties with drip oil heat in winter and just melt in summer heat. The food was of the finest C-rats surplus diggers could find and I swear some of it was also from WWII. Eventually we were rewarded with the new experimental MRE’s –which is its own story.

On one occasion I was so distraught with the lousy food I tried to get a Marine to loan me his M-16 and one shell so I could pot a deer- but he refused. The culinary drudgery just lingered on and on. Boredom followed daily marches in the attempt to teach docs to shoot an azimuth, but none ever did successfully that I recall.

One very dark night with boredom at critical levels, a Navy Nuro Surgeon who I had befriended decided we needed some diversion. The Jarheads had an old half-track on the edge of a large field next to their tents and we were to steal it!!!! Of course, I was hooked immediately! We set out on our “mission” like SEAL wanna be’s- and reached the Half Track undetected. Rumor was the grunts had some beer in their possession, freely enjoyed it and thus assisted our clandestine maneuver. Rob was the Nuro Surgeons Name and despite education, experience and senior officer status was still a hopeless teenager at heart, but he knew nothing about half tracks and neither did I. I did have some farm equipment experience and that surfaced to heighten us into deep kimchi! The machine was an easy start diesel much like a Farmall tractor or John Deere light bulldozer. Half-tracks drive like a bull dozer- there are two sticks and no steering wheel. While the Jarheads may have been in the beer, they weren’t totally stupid and had wisely chained the sticks together limiting how much they could move---consequently the half-track only moved in growing elliptical patterns. Of course, it didn’t take but a flash for the noisy beast to make our theft known to the Marines who began futile foot race after us. It was becoming clear in just a bit of time we would run out of field, be boarded by half lite jarheads or hit something. So, Rob and I decided to abandon ship as the next dark side of the ellipse served as cover. We managed to do so with only minor scrapes and hauled out of there at flank speed as the marines tried to reclaim their errant machine. We did not stick around to see how this ended, slipped back to our POW quarters and to this day deny any such knowledge.

Rob and I continued our friendship for many years until his untimely parting.

Member Spotlight

Major General Don Litke, USAF (Ret)

Don was born and raised in Denver and graduated with a USAF commission from Colo State in 1956. He earned his wings in the B-25 and then went to helicopter school. His first assignment was here at Eglin in the Air Rescue Service (ARS) flying the H-19. Tours in the ARS followed in Morocco, Azores, Montana twice, and Missouri. After Naval War College he went to Vietnam as a pilot advisor to a VNAF Combat Rescue Medical Evacuation squadron.



Tours in logistics and acquisition followed at WPAFB, the Pentagon, the National War College, Warner Robins, and Oklahoma Air Logistics Centers, USEUCOM, Turkey, and a final assignment as Deputy Director of the 52,000, 99% civilian Defense Logistics Agency.

Followed by 20 years as President of Business Development Int'l. Don then became a "Professional Volunteer" serving among others as Chairman and Board member of Children in Crisis and the Institute for Senior Professionals. He is now in his second term appointed by two Governors as a Trustee of NWFSC. Last year he founded Joyful Place a Memory Care Respite Ministry in honor of his wife Kay who he met in 3rd grade and who passed in 2017.

He is a Command Pilot with over 3,300 hours ranging from the B-25 to the T-39 and C-12 including 2,000 hours in helicopters. Don has a BS in Economic and a MS in International Affairs. He holds the Defense and USAF Distinguished Service medals along with several others.

A Call to Action 23-05

Tell Congress to Pay Our Troops

We recently averted a government shutdown but a new one is looming. As the start of a new fiscal year draws closer with no agreement in place to fund the government, service members, veterans, and their families face uncertainty, financial stress, and an erosion of trust in their lawmakers – all during a recruiting and retention crisis for the all-volunteer force.

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA president and CEO had plenty to say about the impacts of a government shutdown:

"Military members and their families volunteer and are honored to serve and make the needed sacrifices, but they don't and should not expect to sacrifice their financial security, The all-volunteer force is the backbone of our nation's national and economic security. We depend on them and hold them accountable ... they want and deserve the same dependability and accountability from the elected members of Congress who are charged with supporting

them ...Government shutdowns and uncertainty of pay and benefits directly contribute to our current recruiting crisis,”

The Pay Our Troops Act HR 5641 would protect military service members and certain Department of Defense civilian employees, contractors and Coast Guard personnel should Congress fail to reach an agreement on a Continuing Resolution in time to prevent any disruption to covering the costs of housing, food security, childcare, medical expenses and other routine daily costs.

Congress has grappled with passing timely annual appropriations for a quarter-century; this year is not any different, and it’s critical for our members to let their lawmakers know that change is long overdue.

Our Senators have indicated their support for this measure, but they still need to be urged to rally their colleagues and see that this bill reaches the finish line and is signed into law.

A more direct request is needed for our House delegation.

Even if a CR does pass to avoid a shutdown, it will have a deadline just a few months downstream. HR 5641 will extend the protection until a permanent funding bill is passed.

[CLICK TO TAKE ACTION: Urge Your Elected Officials to Support the Pay Our Troops Act](#)

Please click on the link above to send a letter to each of our Senators and Congressman. If the drafted letter appears with my name on the bottom, please change it to your name. Also add after your name... Member NWFMOA. We want them to know MOAA and NWFMOA are a forces to be reckoned with. Thank you.

H2S,
Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired
President, NWFMOA

A Call to Action 23-04
Donations Requested for NWFMOA Community Outreach Program - \$25 Commissary Gift Cards for Junior Enlisted Families at Thanksgiving

DONATIONS for NWFMOA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMISSARY GIFT CARDS

This is the 4th year that one of our Chapter Community Outreach projects is to distribute Commissary gift cards to junior enlisted families in ranks E-4 and below. Each gift card is for \$25. Using gift cards (rather than a food drive) allows the families to purchase food items of their choice at the Base Commissary. We will partner again with the First Sergeant Councils at Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and the 7th Special Forces Group (A), and the Military Family Readiness Center at Hurlburt Field to distribute the gift cards to their neediest junior enlisted families.

In the past three years we have given out 610 gift cards totaling \$15,250. Of this amount, the MOAA Foundation has provided \$10,250 through their Community Outreach grants to support our program.

With the continued and growing rate of inflation, particularly for food items, the needs and benefits of this outreach program remains high. This year the MOAA Foundation gave us a grant of \$1,500. Our goal is to match that amount. This will enable us to get 120 Commissary gift cards into the hands of those junior enlisted families in greatest need.

I respectfully ask you to consider donating for this specific outreach program and help a fellow warrior and their family at Thanksgiving. Please click **HERE** to fill out the donation form. Directions on where to mail your donation are on the form. Or you can bring it to the October or November Chapter luncheon and turn it in there.

Thank you for your continued support of this impactful NWFMOA Community Outreach project. Your donation will make a difference.

H2S,

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired

President, NWFMOA

Never Stop Serving



Click the link below to sign up for the MOAA Newsletter

https://bit.ly/moaa_newsletter

Follow us on Facebook



We Need Your Help

In January 2024, a new slate of officers will be voted in to assume the duties of the NWMOA Board. We will be losing two very important officers, the Treasurer and the Secretary. Combined, both current officers in these positions have served for almost two decades and they wish to pass these duties on to other members of our chapter who would be willing to serve and provide continuing leadership to keep our Chapter moving towards the future. Normally these positions would be a short term required service by members willing to serve, and we would not be asking anyone to serve longer than they wanted to. So we are asking for help from our membership to please consider volunteering for these two positions. The position descriptions are as follows:

The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and shall be responsible for, all funds due and collected, receipts and disbursements given, and securities of NWFMOA. Disbursements are made on vouchers approved by the Board of Directors, or as may be appropriate upon authorization of the Board of Directors. The duties of the Treasurer shall be subject to such regulations as imposed by the IRS and the State of Florida. Further, the Board of Directors may make specific requests for information or expenditure of funds as needed. The Treasurer will provide the Board monthly reports on the financial status of NWFMOA. NWFMOA operates two accounts. A 501(c)19 Community Outreach), and a general Chapter Account, which also falls under the Chapter's IRS 501(c)19 designation. As such, the Treasurer will ensure that separate accounts are established, maintained, and used solely by and for the two specifically focused entities. There will be no commingling of funds in accounts between the Community Outreach account, and/or the Chapter's general account. The Chapter Treasurer will provide the NWFMOA Board and the NWFMOA President an annual report on the status of all 501(c)19 funds (donations, expenditures, investment gains/losses, interest gained, etc., NLT the end of January.

The Secretary. The Secretary captures the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Chapter. The Secretary sees that notices are given in accordance with the provision of the Chapter's Bylaws. Except for the financial records, which are kept by the Treasurer, the Secretary keeps all records, to include past editions of the association newsletter and the minutes of its meetings, including meetings of the Board of Directors and Chapter meetings. The Secretary keeps a register of the names and mailing address of all members, including those who also belong to national. The Secretary keeps on file a complete copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a complete copy of the NWFMOA Bylaws.

These two positions are key to the continued success of our Chapter. While it sounds like a lot to do, our processes are very well defined. The transition will be very much "plug and play". Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Feel free to ask Fran, George, or Fred about the position you have interest. The Chapter is operating exceptionally well now, and we could use your assistance in keeping us moving forward. Thank you.

Help lead the management of NWFMOA during our 65th year.

Save The Date

Annual MOAA Military Ball, 14 December 2023

Our annual Military Ball will resume this year again and is scheduled to be on Thursday, 14 December 2023 at the FWB Yacht Club. The dinner menu will be similar to the last Ball in December 2022. This year we will again be charging our members and guests \$60 per person. The ticket order form will be in the digital Defender starting this month. Just a reminder: the dress for the men at the Ball is Mess Dress (if it still fits), formal, tuxedo or business suit. For the ladies it is Gown or Cocktail Dress.

The Band at our Ball will be the Brighton Street Band. They are led by Doug Chambers and are composed of three Band Members. They have agreed to perform again for four hours from the start of the social hour, through dinner, and after dinner dancing. They play all types of music, not real loud, some Christmas music, and also patriotic songs. A good fit for our crowd. So if anyone has any specific questions about the Ball, please email either Karl Eschmann, phanfix@cox.net) or Dick Solt at richdulce@aol.com .

Just to refresh everyone's memory on the Ball Night's program, it will look like this:

- 1800: Social Begins; Pay as you go Bar; Soft Band music (Raffle begins)
- 1845: Call to Dinner
- 1900: Opening Remarks by the MC, Invocation, presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, President's Remarks and toasts
- 1920: Dinner is served (soft music by the band)
- 2000: Break
- 2015: Dancing to Brighton Street Band music
- 2100: Raffle winning tickets announced
- 2115-2200: More dancing to music

We hope to see as many of you all as possible this year, as well as active military and other guests at our event! We need your attendance and support for the Ball to have a good social setting for our members to start the Christmas Season! Please send in your checks and ticket forms by the end of November so we can turn in the estimated number of meals for the yacht club staff.

We will be soliciting for items and gifts from businesses and individuals for the Raffle fundraiser event during the Ball. Starting in October, please bring any items of donations into the luncheon and we will collect them. We do need to fill our adult beverage crates so we have several to auction!

Click to get your tickets 



Test Your Knowledge

Take the quiz for a chance to
← win a free lunch.

This month the quiz is about some important military history. When you click on the link below, you will see a single question and a place to give your answer and name. If your answer is correct, you will be entered into the drawing at the monthly meeting (you have to be present to win your free meal). You may answer the question multiple times but only the correct answer will count for the drawing (so answering the question correctly 5 times will not give you more chances to win). We don't tell anyone that they got it right or wrong until we disclose the winner at the meeting. At the meeting, we state the answer and how many got it right. Then we pull the winner from the hat.

Last month the winner of the quiz was **Mike Griffith**. Congratulations Mike!

Click the link below to get to the quiz. The winner will be announced at the next meeting.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar



Does Veteran's and Thanksgiving Days highlight your years of grateful service? Many unselfish Americans took a potent oath for our principles and values! You stand above the majority of citizens.

Why do we celebrate America's Thanksgiving? The pilgrims stood at a crossroads. Their moral and spiritual compasses had to choose what they thought was right. They knew and were experiencing what was wrong in Europe. So they chose to flee from evil, follow God's guidance and fight for the very same principles we veterans still hold precious.

They were ardent men and women of faith. Their conversations with family and friends focused on significant issues, especially religious freedom. They knew when they protested against mandatory and racketeering religion, they could face death. They pursued "Soul Freedom." and found spiritual gumption to pursue new life in a new nation.

In like manner, we are pilgrims passing through. We make moral choices every day. Together with our family we decide how to live, what to own, where to work, etc. Even in this season of our life we face choices of where to spend those 'golden' years.

We gather around the holiday table and share “our gratitude list” with each other. We reminisce and talk about past pivotal events, our values and future resting place.

Do you have those salient flashbacks and realize the repercussions of earlier choices?

In the Book of the Psalms, King David realized that life was more than what his eyes saw. It was in his solitude time in the remote mountains as a young shepherd that he learned that the God of nature formed each creation for a purpose. David asked what would give true happiness and meaning for life? Is there more to being happy than riches, fame, power? The pilgrims and founding fathers were not content to live suffocating and mediocre lives. They were fed up with the greed, dishonesty and corruption of their leaders.

We ask, will the mall, the news commentator, bar friend, investor give me a euphoric lift? The older we get, hopefully we discover the Godly wisdom of those righteous individuals who have gone before us.

The Pilgrims experienced a God who loves, protects, provides, and gives courage to face those difficult decisions. It was a personal choice that produced an amazing public outcome—our homeland!

We have a moral and spiritual compass—the Bible. and as you walk in God’s Word, read, study, and pray over it, you will be guided in the right direction to make the right choices. We have the Holy Spirit who is like an empire, keeping us on the “King’s Highway.”

Likewise the founding fathers followed suit; they wanted a nation that respected the beliefs of all faiths, but did not want our country ruled by a religious monarch or political dictator.

Like many veterans, we always felt as deployed warriors that we were giving those less fortunate a better opportunity to live freely and with democratic ideals. Many a young man and woman fought for what they knew they possessed, so less fortunate could be recipients of similar values and lifestyle.

You probably remember after the recent wars that individuals received the right to vote for the first time; they stuck their finger in colored ink; people voted and raised their hands high. They endured and gave thanks.

When I see the turmoil in the world today, I should not get angry at the newscaster or the people in the office. We have to realize our first responsibility is to make sure I am walking in God’s light. Is my behavior reflecting Biblical beliefs? Am I grateful for God’s grace and mercy? Do I praise His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence?

Then I will have the internal compass to guide my external engagements.

If King David were alive today, he might remind us pilgrim veterans, that we validate our “Thanks” by “Giving.” Enjoy this month’s events with family and friends.

Officers Call

Our next officers call will be on November 30 @ 1700, Doc's Oyster Bar, 303 Glen Ave, Valparaiso, FL.



[CLICK FOR DIRECTIONS](#)

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

Chuck Miller, Col, USAF, Sept 11, 2023
--President NWFMOA 1986-1987

New Members

Austin Bury, Capt, USMC
Richard Hickenbothen, Capt, USAF
Daniel McAuliffe, Col, USAF
Walter Smith, LTC, USA
David Swantick, Col, USAF

SUPPORT MOAA

Do what you can to support our national organization. To learn what's going on and to find out what you can do go to: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/> We all will benefit from your efforts.



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at every stage.**

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Defender is a monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association. The purpose of this publication is to communicate with, inform, and educate chapter members. The national MOAA, this local chapter, and this publication are totally nonpartisan.

OUR MISSION

The mission of NWFMOA is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

Never Stop Serving

**Order your NWFMOA
POLO Shirt today.**



Click this box for an order form.


Wear your shirt proudly.

Help Prevent Veteran Suicide

Together We Can End Veteran Suicide

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

STAND WATCH FOR A VET
30 SECONDS TO SIGN UP
30 MINUTES OF TRAINING
... A LIFETIME OF SAVING LIVES



STAND AGAINST VETERAN SUICIDE

THEFIREWATCH.ORG

BECOME A WATCH STANDER.

The Watch Stander program is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Creating a life-saving community network that is there to support our local veterans in their time of need. Sign up today with 3 short steps.

- 1 Commit To Help.**
Sign up to be a Watch Stander. It takes only 30 sec to sign up and you will be training on the warning signs to help a veteran in crisis. Visit TheFireWatch.Org to register.
- 2 Identify The Signs.**
Watch a 30 min training video that will educate you on the challenges veteran face daily, and how to recognize a veteran slipping into crisis.
- 3 Stand Watch.**
Stand Watch and be there to help when your moment comes.



STAND AGAINST VETERAN SUICIDE

THE FIRE WATCH
5011 GATE PARKWAY, BLDG 100, SUITE 100
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256
904.634.9420 | INFO@THEFIREWATCH.ORG



STAND WATCH. SAVE LIVES.

Community Outreach

By: Dave Parisot



NWFMOA has membership recruiting booth at Home & Boat Show; Upcoming Community Outreach Events

Our Chapter had an information booth at the annual Home & Boat Show at the Emerald Coast Convention Center on September 23rd and 24th. Just another effort to get our organization in front of the local community and businesses to promote our organization and community service projects. We were able to contact about ten potential new members using our 'tri-fold member recruiting folder' (a copy is on the NWFMOA website). A hearty 'thank you' to Chapter members **Fran Hendricks, Jim Shoff, Bob Gramm, Dick Solt, and Dave Parisot** for giving up some of their weekend time to man the booth. Pictures below are of Major Dave Parisot on left and Capt Jim Shoff and Brig Gen Fran Hendricks, Chapter President, on right.

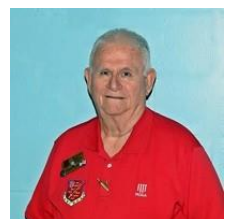


Some upcoming community outreach projects for our Chapter are the **Veterans Stand Down** on November 8th at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds (we'll need some volunteers for this one) where we will be distributing colder weather clothing for homeless or needy Veterans; distributing **commissary gift cards for junior enlisted families** in early November through the First Sergeant Councils at Eglin, Hurlburt, and the 7th Special forces Group, and the Military Family Readiness Center at Hurlburt (still time to donate to this worthy project); and, on December 16th we will be participating in the **Wreaths Across America** program by laying holiday wreaths on the graves of Veterans at the Beal Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach. All members are welcome to assist with these projects.

Legislative Liaison

by Dave Parisot

Dave Parisot is on vacation so there is no Legislative update this month.

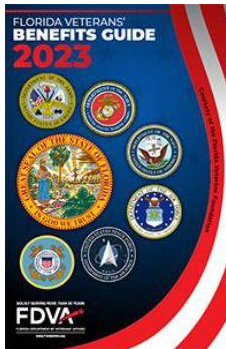


However, in his absence, here is an article by the Florida Veterans Council written by MAJ Lorraine Holland, USA (Ret), FCoC Committee Chair Florida Veterans Council.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) is a government agency of the State of Florida under the authority of the Governor of Florida and is charged with helping 1.5 million Florida veterans and their families to receive all benefits they are legally entitled to. In addition, FDVA operates a network of nine State Veterans' Homes, and provides statewide outreach to connect veterans with their earned services, benefits, and support. In 2022, FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners assisted more than 272,000 veterans in providing information and counsel on benefits they rightly deserved.

The department is headed by an Executive Director (MG retired James "Hammer" Hartsell) with a deputy executive director over four divisions (Administration, Veteran's Benefits, Information Technology and Veterans' Homes) and three directors (General Counsel, Legislative Affairs and Communications).

Each year the FDVA publishes the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide to provide resources to Florida veterans and their families. I highly encourage you to read and/or download the 2023 Guide by clicking on the picture.



[ALSO, CLICK HERE FOR THE TAKE ACTION CENTER](#)

Scholarship Fund by Charles Farmer

At the time of this writing, we have started the scholarship process for the 2023-2024 school year. It is also the time of year where our previous scholarship recipients are sending in their documentation from their respective colleges and universities verifying their enrollment and participation in ROTC. I chose to highlight the impact we are having on the leaders of tomorrow through your support and the scholarship program. As the AFJROTC SASI at Niceville High School, this is an especially exciting time as this is the first step on their journey to becoming a military officer. Personally, I have multiple students who have benefited from the NWFMOA scholarship program with many receiving their commission. One such success story is 2Lt Yolanda Stallworth, USAF, who is currently at CSO training at Pensacola NAS. As a JROTC cadet she excelled in the program as a leader and mentor. She interned for our governor and performed the national anthem on many occasions. While at the University of Central Florida she earned her private pilot license, received her commission and earned a CSO training slot. She also continued to mentor her peers, perform the national anthem while on national television and represent Northwest Florida

with distinction. Yolanda is just one of the many distinguished scholarship recipients and I can say with confidence that every JROTC unit in this area has similar success stories that are directly tied to the NWFMOA support. Personally, I have witnessed the tireless work of Dave Parisot as well as the other members of the scholarship board as they work to make these scholarships available to JROTC cadets who have decided to serve our country. They worked to expand this to ROTC cadets to help them cross the finish line and receive their commission. Thank you Dave, board members, and NWFMOA members for your continue support and for allowing me to highlight the impact you are making in the next generation of military leaders.

The Scholarship Fund Board of Directors held their meeting in late September to finalize the plans for the scholarship program for 2024. The board confirmed the dollar amount of the scholarships and how many to award to local JROTC cadets and ROTC cadets. The number and amount of each scholarship for the class of 2024 will remain the same as the previous year.

Below is the complete list of our **Endowed Scholarships**, our **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation) and our **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months, along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. All of these donations are used to fund our scholarships. [Note: (D) means deceased and (R) means Renewal of membership.]

Endowed Scholarships: **Lt Col Jim and Mrs Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship** (D) (via their estate effective 2018); **Dave Parisot** in memory of his wife, Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot) (effective 2017); **Dr (Lt Col, USAF, Ret.) Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship** (effective 2022); and, **Dr. (Lt. Col., USAF, Ret,) Fred and Mrs. Jan Westfall Scholarship** (effective 2023).

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen**, (D) (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (D) (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard & Irene Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred & Jan Westfall** (Apr 2018); **Clyde Locke** (D) (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (D) (July 2018); **Dennis Phillips** (Aug 2018); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (Oct 2018); **Carol Baker** (Jan 2019); **Ann Adelsperger** (Feb 2019); **Don Litke** (Aug 2019); **Fred Boyer** (D) (Aug 2019). **Dr. Keith Kulow** (Nov 2019); **Al Bills** (Nov. 2019); **Kay Dent** (Nov. 2019); **Dr. Roger Riggenschach** (Dec 2019); **Robert “Pete” Peterzen** (Dec 2019); **Nick Marotta** (Oct 2020); **Kathy & Jesse Bush** (Dec 2020); **Patt & Caroline Maney** (Dec 2020); **Kevin Kirby** (Apr 2021); **Scott & Janet Berry** (May 2021); **Douglas Hardin** (D) (Sept 2021); **Patrick Boab** (Dec. 2021); **Bob Allen** (Feb 2022); **Bobbi Hanson Garcia** (Mar 2022); **Joy Houck** (Mar 2022); **George Colton** (May 2022); **Bob Secrest** (May 2022); **Brig. Gen Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks** (Oct 2022); **Les Matheson** (Feb 2023); **Dan Brown** (April 2023); and, **Tess Bass** (August 2023) [Note: 40 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): Sept 2022: **Bob Gramm** (R); Oct 2022: **Brig. Gen. Fran & Mrs. Connie Hendricks** (R); **Doug Hardin** (R) (In memory of Gen. Bill

Kirk); Nov. 2022: **Kevin Kirby (R)**; **Pete Peterzen (R)**; **Brig. Gen. Patrick Boab (R)**; Dec. 2022: **Maj. Gen. Don Litke (R)** (In memory of Kay Litke); **Kay Dent (R)** (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann (R)** (In memory of Brig. Gen. George “Bud” Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Dave Parisot (R)** (In memory of Chong Cha Parisot); **Dr. Keith & Elizabeth Kulow (R)**; **Larry Tashlik (R)**; **Jeff Watson (R)**; **Dave Parisot (R)** (In memory of Col. Doug Hardin); **Fred & Jan Westfall (R)**; **Les Matheson (R)**; **Janet Ryan Taylor (R)** (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); January 2023: **Dave Parisot (R)** (In memory of Col. Don Panzenhagen); February 2023: **Reddoch Williams (R)**; March 2023: **Kevin Kirby (R)**; **Rod Gerdes (R)**; and **Les Matheson (R)**; April 2023: **Dennis Phillips (R)**; **Dan Brown (R)** (In memory of Col. Don Panzenhagen); **Al Bills (R)**; **Larry Bush (R)**; May 2023: **Chris Beam (R)**; **Bob Secrest (R)**; and, **Dr. Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher (R)**; June 2023: **Dave Parisot (R)** (In memory of Maj. Bill Van Hoesen); August 2023: **Dan Brown (R)**; **Christine Hallion**; **Kevin Kirby (R)**; **Dick Solt (R)**; **Dave Parisot (R)** (In memory of Col. ‘Skip’ Harrington and Col. Bill Byerley); **Tess Bass (R)**. **2023 Business Platinum Donors**: (\$1,000+): Dec. 2022: **Bass, Byrd & Associates at Merrill Lynch of FWB (R)**; **Florida Power & Light**

2023 Business Platinum Donors: (\$1,000+): Dec. 2022: **Bass, Byrd & Associates at Merrill Lynch of FWB (R)**; **Florida Power & Light**



2022/2023 Business Gold Donors (\$500 - \$749): Dec. 2022: **Eglin Federal Credit Union (R)**; **Step One Automotive Group (R)**; **Residence Inn & Suites by Marriott of FWB (In-kind) (R)**; **TownePlace Suites by Marriott of FWB (In-kind) (R)**; **David Scott Lee (Crestview) Buick/GMC (In-kind) (R)**.

2022/2023 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): Dec 2022: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind)**; **Rocky Bayou Golf Club (In-kind)**; **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind)**; **International House of Pancakes (IHOP) of FWB (In-kind)**;

2022/2023 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): Dec 2022: **Buffalo’s Reef of FWB (in-kind) (R)**; **Mary’s Kitchen of FWB (in-kind) (R)**; **Painting With a Twist of FWB (in-kind) (R)**; **Repeat Street Thrift Store of FWB (R) (in-kind)**; **Tammy’s Journeys of FWB (In-kind) (R)**; **Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen of FWB (In-kind) (R)**; **Samuel’s Roadhouse of Crestview (In-kind) (R)**; **The Shack Waterfront Restaurant & Marina of FWB**; **Conexion Newspaper of Navarre**; **Lisa Jo Spencer, P.A. of Mary Esther**.

[Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.](#)

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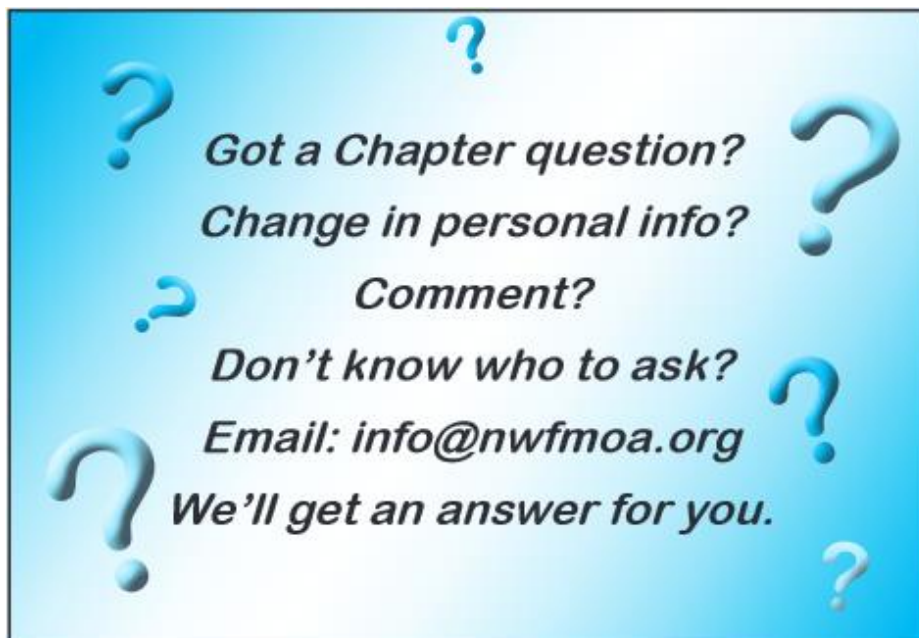
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Make Checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn. Inc. Check here is you do not want your name, phone number, or email address listed in the printed chapter directories. Membership includes a subscription to *The Defender* 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 is automatically an auxiliary life member

Membership Application/ Renewal

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

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Age	Dues	Age	Dues
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96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
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