

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
8/1/2024

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The August 1st meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Fran read an invocation provided by Chaplain Ray Alexander and then John Wambough led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fran began the meeting by announcing open mic opportunity 1220-1230, then acknowledged the presence of our past Presidents who were with us today. He also announced that those members who have birthdays in both August and July would receive a free meal since there was no July meeting. No guests were present.

Following lunch Fran introduced our guest speaker, Lt Col, USAF Retired, Christine Kelley who, among many other accomplishments, was the first woman to fly in the F-35. Lt Col Kelley recounted how at a very young age knew she wanted to be not just a pilot but a fighter pilot. She saw her best possibility to attaining that goal through the USAF Academy. While admitting that she graduated in the middle of her AFA class, she said that the intense training she received was responsible for reaching her dreams. She went through the normal pilot training regimen but was a standout aviator. She eventually had the opportunity to fly combat missions in the F-15E (Strike Eagle), recounting her most memorable mission. Following her combat career, she was offered the opportunity to fly the F-35A. She ended her presentation with her three keys for success, which were: 1) Have a thick skin, 2) Create a support network, and 3) Persevere. She then answered several questions from our members. After her riveting presentation, Fran presented Lt Col Kelley with the NWFMOA Chapter coin.

Fran then then announced that B/G Patt Maney will receive the Boy Scout's Distinguished Eagle Scout Award October 24th at the Hilton Garden Inn Ft. Walton Beach. He also reminded members that our next Officers Call will be on August 29 and encouraged all to attend. For his Advocacy in Action minute, Fran addressed possible changes to the TRICARE Pharmacy Network. He asked Members to visit the NWFMOA website main page, scroll down and click on the Take Action button. That will take you to the National MOAA website where you will find numerous legislative actions MOAA is working. Click on the Impact of TRICARE Pharmacy Network Changes and "Tell your story" by answering three questions.

Fran also announced that our September 5th speaker will be Lt Gen Brian Kelly, President and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America.

Karl Eschmann announced that the Military Ball tickets are now on sale. Check the Defender for details.

Dave Parisot announced that donations to the Scholarship Fund can now be made with a credit card. Check the website for details.

Fran then announced that there were 6 eligible members for the July Defender Quiz and 7 for the August drawing. The winning names were Mel Claxton for July but unfortunately, he was not present, and Mike Griffith for August. Mike was present and can claim his free meal at the September lunch.

The 50/50 raffle was held for our community outreach projects. The winner of \$46 was Frank Goldstein. A total of \$46 went to the community outreach fund.

Attendance for the meeting was 39. The meeting was adjourned at 1330.

//signed//

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

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter
and posting on the NWFMOA website