

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
1/2/2025

The January 2nd meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Chaplain Tom Azar provided lead a moment of silence for the recent passing of fellow officer and former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter and for the families of the recent terrorist attack in New Orleans. Chaplain Azar provided the invocation. MSgt Rogers, First Sgt, 1SOSFS (Hurlburt Field) led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fran began the meeting by announcing open mic opportunity 1210-1220. He also recognized those members who have birthdays in January. Fran acknowledged the presence of our past Presidents who were in attendance. Fran shared the various Chapter happenings since our last meeting in December...hosted the Annual Military Ball; distributed 400 (\$25) Commissary Gift Cards for Junior Enlisted Families in need to First Sgts at (Eglin, Hurlburt Field, Duke Field, and Camp Bull Simons), purchased 100 wreaths and help place them on graves of Veterans buried in Beal Memorial Cemetery. Fran then asked all 2024 Board Members present to stand and be recognized for their outstanding service to the Chapter. Fran mentioned that their last formal action was to approve and pay for 150 wreaths for placement on Veterans' graves in 2025. Fran welcomed new Chapter Member CAPT Rusty Babington, USN Retired, and his wife Carol to the Chapter. Rusty addressed the Chapter and gave a brief summary of his Naval career.

Jeff Watson and Chuck Merkel addressed the Chapter during Open Mic.

Following lunch, Maj Gen Rich Comer, USAF Retired, was the presiding officer and swore in the NWFMOA 2025 Officers and Board members. Chaplain Azar provided a prayer for the Board to build upon prior Boards' successes and commitment to service. MSgt Rogers gave a summary of the impact of the Commissary Gift Card program on recipients at Hurlburt Field and thanked the Chapter for this important and impactful program. He then coined Fran with a Hurlburt First Sergeants Council coin.

Fran shared upcoming events:

- Officer Call at Cheers in Shalimar on Thursday, Jan 30 at 5pm.
- Valentines for Veterans, Friday, February 14 at Bob Hope Village

Brig Gen Gwyn Armfield, USAF Retired, will be our speaker at the February luncheon. He will address the new Air Commando Museum planned for Hurlburt Field.

50/50 collected \$80. Winner of the 50/50 was Chuck Merkel. He donated his portion (\$40) back to the Chapter's Junior Enlisted Commissary Gift Card Program.

Attendance for the meeting was 28. The meeting was adjourned at 1310.

Ray Alexander, CH (LTC), US ARMY (Ret)

Acting Secretary

NWFMOA Chapter FL 19

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Member