

THE SARASOTA BREEZE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA, INC.

An Affiliate of The Military Officers Association of America-MOAA and The Florida Council of Chapters

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August 2011

JULY: A FIFTY-FIVE GALLON OIL DRUM AND ITS BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

by Vic Reiling

Frankie Catalina entertained us, with both music, and his knowledge of Steel Drums. The beautiful tones emanating from his wonderful drum are heard regularly in Sarasota restaurants.

An Army sergeant at 19, Frankie saw considerable action in 1971 Vietnam, Laotian and Thai assignments. In 1995, he began his one-man Steel Drum performances on cruise ships. Later he came ashore and has become a regular, outstanding Sarasota entertainer.

Steel Drums originated in Trinidad in the 1930's, and his father was a pilot there in the 1950's-60's. Living there gave Frankie a very early start on playing the instrument.

We learned that there are 29 sections in the drum, resulting in the creation of 2½ octaves. Every Steel Drum must be formed and tuned by hand and, as Frankie told us, cannot be massed produced in China. He uses two aluminum rods with rubber caps to create his melodies, which are played in conjunction with his own prerecorded backup music. The cost of a new drum is in the \$5000 range!

Frankie is looking ahead to a newer, somewhat larger drum that will give him even more notes. There are 3 kids in his family, and each has learned to play the drum.

We were privileged to hear wonderful music, including YELLOW BIRD, MARY-ANN and JAMAICAN FAREWELL from a very talented musician, and were happy to learn that he plays regularly at Marina Jack's, O'Leary's and Tommy Bahamas. ●



AUGUST: THE RINGLING MUSEUM & THE TIBBALS CIRCUS MUSEUM

by Vic Reiling



We are looking forward to a great presentation of the current, and future, Ringling Museum by the newly appointed Executive Director, Steven High, and a close look at the Tibbals Circus Museum by Tibbals Curator Deborah Walk.

Steven High has come to Sarasota from Savannah, having led the Telfair Museum to new heights there and has taken several prior museums to national recognition, including the 1999 National Award for Museum Service, which was presented at the White House.

Curator of the Tibbals Circus Museum, Deborah Walk is also the Curator of Historical Documents for the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. She was the head of the team that created the 2006 Tibbals Learning Center, and is currently working on a major new 2011 addition to the Circus Museum.

We will be really pleased to learn even more about one of Sarasota's most famous attractions! ●

WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

<i>Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees</i> ...	2
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Secretary's Corner</i>	3
<i>Legislative Update</i>	4
<i>Chaplain</i>	5
<i>Luncheon Photos</i>	6, 7, 8
<i>July Birthdays</i>	7
<i>YAHOO Activities</i>	8
<i>Support Our Troops</i>	9
<i>Membership, New Members</i>	9
<i>Items of Interest</i>	10
<i>MOAS Calendar</i>	Back Cover

Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

Board of Directors

President	John O'Brien	907-8891
First Vice-President	Troy Scott	379-3023
Second Vice-President	Victor G. Reiling, Jr.	377-1262
Treasurer	Donald M. Kuyper	726-5790
Secretary	George L. Binswanger	922-1824
Director (Scholarships)	William Robert La Follette	755-9019
Director (Membership)	George Tracy	907-9865
Director (Publicity)	Alan Forrester	504-5759
Immediate Past President	Leonard Friedlander	927-0996

Board Staff

Program Planning	Victor G. Reiling, Jr.	377-1262
Membership Database Mgr	George Tracy	907-9865
Membership Directory Mgr	Leonard Friedlander	927-0996
Chaplain	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Legislative Affairs	Leonard Friedlander	927-0996
Veterans Affairs	Patricia McLain	371-0883
Treasurer Emeritus	Marty Hertz	377-8319
Historian	George L. Binswanger	922-1824
Awards Board	Gerald Crawford	426-2411

Scholarship & Projects Committee

Chairman	Steve Cork	377-5485
Member	Winnie Gillette	924-8655
Member	Norman Maclellan	493-1725
Member	Claire Power	921-1931

Scheduled Events Committee

Chair/Reservations	Elke Scott	379-3023
Greeter	Troy Scott	379-3023
Reception Manager	Pat McLain	371-0883
Asst Reception Manager	June Moore	388-3118
50-50 Manager	Christa Friedlander	927-0996

Survivor Assistance Services Committee

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Member	Margaret Platt	378-8863
Member	Lee Kichen	355-1227

Auxiliary

Chairperson	Barbara Hamilton	921-9250
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Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Organization)

Manager	John O'Brien	obrienjc@aol.com	907-8891
MOAS Singles Group	Marguerite Taylor		923-9238

Support Our Troops Program

Program Co-Chairpersons	Jim & Joyce Hesson	926-8702
Program Co-Chairpersons	Donald & Rita Cunningham	351-8967
Program Co-Chairpersons	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891

Newsletter Operation, Sarasota Breeze

Managing Editor	Leonard Friedlander	lenfriedlander@verizon.net	927-0996
Photographer & Compiler	Max Jonah	mjonah@verizon.net	504-8147
Photographer	Terry Teele	terrymaddy@teele.net	922-9492
Photo Manager	Pat McLain	jandpmclain@earthlink.net	371-0883
Photo Recorder	Barbara Hamilton	bah2762@aol.com	921-9250



We can certainly be proud of this year's Scholarship awardees, and the accompanying picture warrants that pride. Meghan Buckley (Riverview HS) is being sworn in beginning her Plebe year at the U.S Military Academy at West Point. She is starting out with so much ability, and so much opportunity before her. We wish her well.



I received the following from Barbara Hamilton on Martin and Hope Hertz, two of our longtime members. I encourage our members to drop them a card or stop by to see them.

"Winter Soldiers"

"Many of you will remember a couple of chapter members who worked for many years for MOAS and for the Sarasota community. They are having some health problems and would like to hear from you. One of the members has a MOAS award named after him, the "Martin Hertz Lifetime Community Service Award". Marty is now at The Magnolia Assisted Living 1507 So Tuttle Sarasota, FL 34239. He has a direct telephone line to his room 893-2988. It is best to phone at 12 Noon or between 5 and 7PM. His wife Hope is also having medical problems. She is at home at 4198 Oakhurst Circle West, Sarasota, FL 34233. Her telephone is 377-8319. If you would like to send them both a card or give them a phone call it would be appreciated."

Barbara Hamilton has also been trying to take care of us in other ways. She has been distributing the MOAA booklet "Help Your Survivors Now" which contains a Personal Affairs Workbook to provide important information to survivors. We encourage everyone to look through this document, and complete the Workbook for your loved ones. The Workbook is available at the monthly luncheons or can be ordered from the MOAA web site http://www.moaa.org/pubs/pubs_infoex. ●

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The Board meeting was called to order at 1600 hours on 5 July, 2011 at the Meadows Community Center, President John O'Brien presiding.

ATTENDANCE. Board members present: John O'Brien (Pres), Troy Scott (1VP), George Binswanger (Secy), Don Kuyper (Treas), Alan Forrester, (Dir), Bill LaFollette (Dir), George Tracy (Dir) and Len Friedlander (IPP). Board members absent: Vic Reiling (2VP), Committee members and visitors present: Max Jonah, Pat McLain.

PRESIDENTS REPORT. The July Breeze had the wrong date for the Yahoo Beach Party. Should have been 13 August, not 17 August. A letter of confirmation was received from MOAA confirming VADM Ryan's attendance at the September Joint Luncheon and he has requested a list of attendees. Pat McLain will be handling luncheon reservations for July and September, Elke Scott will take care of August reservations. Home Depot and Lowes both will continue to offer a 10% discount to all military personnel with an active, retired or Medical ID.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by LaFollette and seconded by Scott to approve the minutes from the May 2011 Board Meeting as published in the Breeze. It was approved unanimously. MOAS name tags are available at \$15.00 each. Contact the Secretary at 941-922-1824 or at cbinsy@verizon.net.

BOARD MEETINGS & LUNCHEONS - 2011		
Month	Board Meeting	Luncheon
August	1	19
September	6	16
October	3	21
November	7	18
December	5	11 (gala)

TREASURER'S REPORT. As of 30 June 2011:
a. The balance in the MOAS Operating Fund is: \$ 6,665.73
b. The balance in the Scholarship Fund is: \$ 23,116.59
 This includes \$ 5,432.74 in Special Accounts (Support Our Troops and Taylor Funds)

OLD BUSINESS. None.

SCHEDULED EVENTS. The luncheon June 2011 had a profit of \$103.00. Scholarship received \$49.00 from 50/50. There were 79 in attendance.

PROGRAMS:

August	Ringling Museum & Circus Museum
September	Joint Meeting SW Florida Chapters - VADM Norbert Ryan (MOAA)
October	TBA
November	Annual Meeting Program TBA
December	Winter Gala

NEWSLETTER; Discussions scheduled with the print firm (Spotlight Graphics) on software program changes.

MEMBERSHIP:

MOAS	2010	2011
Regular	342	339
Auxiliary	96	102
Allied	4	4
Total	442	445

We have 69 unpaid members from last year and will need a team effort to have them rejoin. Still working on the Data Base and have MOAA updating our base for names and numbers. A list of new MOAA members was received and distributed for follow-up.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROJECTS. With COL Cork retiring from SMA, MOAS will evaluate whether to continue as is, or by the MOAS Board. LaFollette is to contact COL Cork to determine what they have, what forms are needed and possible costs.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS: 100 plus boxes were taken by one individual. Gen Hesson to help the 101 ABN Division in a tribute to a number of their personnel lost in Afghanistan by a donation of \$850.00.

PUBLICITY. MOAS has been getting excellent publicity.

SARASOTA COUNTY VETERANS COMMISSION. The National Advisory Committee met and saw the plans for the Soldiers' Statuary to be placed at the Sarasota National Cemetery and funded by a donor. It will represent all branches of the military, except the Merchant Marine, who are not a recognized branch.

CHAPLAIN/SURVIVOR BENEFITS None

AUXILIARY: None

NEW BUSINESS: Friedlander would like to investigate use of advertisements in the Breeze, which many other chapters do in their newsletters. We need a legal opinion on the subject.

NEXT MEETING. The Board adjourned at 1740 hours. The next Board meeting will be Monday August 1, 2011, 1600 hours at the Meadows Community Center. All members are welcome to attend. ●



At the time I am writing this column, negotiations are ongoing in ADC to increase the debt ceiling. I mention this because much of what follows depends on the outcome of the negotiations. Some of the open questions resulting from this impasse are: will the government default on its financial obligations; will entitlements such as social security and Medicare continue as expected or be reduced; will tax loopholes be closed; will the defense budget be cut or modified; and what will the government pay first if there is no agreement.

One of the budgetary 'fixes' mentioned of late is the possible re-engineering of the Consumer Price Index calculations, which would push the annual Social Security COLA increases downward. By the way, since military retired pay also uses the CPI for calculating COLA increases, military retirees could be doubly affected if this change is implemented. I don't know what will happen, but thought I would pass on this caution.

VA BUDGET 2012

The Obama administration requested \$54.9 Billion in funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) for FY2012 and \$56.7 Billion for FY 2013. VA officials said the new budget estimate was increased overall by about \$1.4 Billion for FY 2012 and \$1.3 Billion for FY 2013 to support healthcare-related initiatives such as expanding homeless veterans programs, opening new healthcare facilities, offering additional services for caregivers and providing benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

The president's request for FY 2012 also included about \$953 Million in contingency funding to provide additional resources in the event that the downturned economy results in increased use of VA healthcare. The VA currently operates 152 hospitals, 133 nursing homes, 824 community-based outpatient clinics and other facilities to provide care to veterans.

COLA 2012

Inflation climbed 0.5% in May, marking the ninth consecutive month the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen. With four months left in the fiscal year, the cumulative inflation increase from the 2008 CPI baseline is 3.4%. If the trend continues, retirees could be in line for a 2012 COLA increase.

MILITARY RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Once again, the military retirement system is coming under the scrutiny of budgeters and deficit reduction task forces.

Earlier this year SECDEF Robert Gates stated, "Everything is on the table" for budget cuts. Tasked to find over \$400 Billion dollars in savings over the next 10-12 years, he pointed to the military retirement system for some of the savings. Incoming SECDEF Leon Panetta used the same line during his recent nomination hearings, urging more significant, program-specific changes rather than an across-the-board budget cuts.

Gates criticized the "one-size-fits-all" 20-year retirement structure, and established a working group to develop alternative options. In his final hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee last week, he endorsed an early vesting system, noting, "70-80% of the force does not stay until retirement but leave with nothing."

Additionally, multiple media reports have indicated military retirement cutbacks could be in play in ongoing deficit-reduction talks between administration and congressional leaders. Most proposals are based on recommendations of the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) (2009):

- Converting to a civilianized 401(k)-style system and full retired pay wouldn't be paid until age 57- 60
- Authorizing the services to make variable annual retirement contributions depending on changing retention and skill requirements
- Vesting retirement benefits after 10 years of service

MOAA believes the 20-year retirement system is the primary reason retention hasn't imploded over the last 10 years of unprecedented strains on career service members and their families. The problem with proposals to cut overall military retirement costs while also implementing an expensive new 10-year vesting plan is that there's only one place for that money to come from – the pockets of those who stay for a full career. If you tried to build a plan to slash career retention, it's hard to conceive a better way than taking money from people who serve a career to pay more to those who separate early.

TRICARE USER FEES

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) intends to include a provision in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act that would increase Tricare Prime fees by 13%, more than double the rate of health care inflation, and tie future fee increases to an annual inflation index. This is, no doubt, in response to repeated claims by the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs that the rising cost of Tricare was crippling our nation's national security.

However, the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees (USDR) organization learned that the HASC also intends to transfer \$330 million of under-executed Tricare funds to fund 22 programs, specifically requested by members of Congress for medical research.

If these congressionally directed programs fell within the Pentagon's traditional battlefield medicine or related military research, using unused Tricare funds might have merit. However, many of the projects have absolutely no connection to the military and duplicate research areas already covered under general health projects funded through the National Institutes of Health.

How these under-executed funds are used does not negate the fact that DoD told us Tricare was breaking its back. The actual fact is that Tricare never spent all the money it was allocated. Despite the fact that Tricare is spending less than appropriated, leaders in Congress have agreed with the DoD to increase Tricare Prime fees.

Seems this double-whammy of taking unspent monies to fund other projects and then increasing fees based on inaccurate information is patently unfair. ●



THOSE WHO HAVE COUNTED

I am writing this article from Maui, Hawaii. I left Oahu, Hawaii in 1968 after a three year tour during the Vietnam War not to return until now. I have been surprised at all the flashbacks I've experienced regarding that tour of duty. I feel guilty. I have so much, and am now enjoying the beauty of this island, when so many of my memories are of death, horrible injuries, funerals and fear.

Going through my files, I found an old newspaper article from Hickam AFB written on December 1967. The article was entitled "Men Who Counted" and it read in part: *"One of the spectacular sights of the Pacific is the Punchbowl National Cemetery. Almost every tourist visits there during his stay. Hundreds of friends and relatives make regular visits of remembrances each year. Since 30 September 1949, when the cemetery was originally opened, over 19,500 persons have been buried there. Of these, 46 have been buried as a result of the Viet Nam situation."* Sad to say, I personally conducted many of those burials.

As if it were today, I still remember ringing door bells and seeing the faces of those getting the news of the death of their loved ones. I also re-live the smell of those who were burned, wounded and dying while trying to comfort them on the Air Evac aircraft.

I shall never forget when I had to go the airport to notify an arriving wife that her husband had been killed in Vietnam trying to get to the plane taking him on R&R to be with her. I watched all the excited women departing the plane from the States, receiving their flower leis, and being met by their husbands. I had to wait to see

the only women who would be standing alone. All had moved away, except one woman who kept staring, hoping to see her husband. I knew this was the one to whom I had to deliver the tragic news. My heart broke giving her the sad message. I guided her to a room in the terminal where women from the Chapel waited to provide further comfort and take her in their loving care.

Those of us who returned from the Vietnam War still carry the scars of how we were treated by some of the citizens of our country. No wonder I get angry when I hear of flag burnings, colleges who refuse to allow recruiting for the military on their campuses, students refusing to pledge allegiance to the flag and country, or municipalities forbidding the flying of our flag. It is time we let our voices be heard so that all the men and women who counted will not have suffered or died in vain.

I am proud of MOAA for the work all chapters do to eradicate the disrespect for our flag and lack of honor to our military. How wonderful it is to read about assistance to the families of the wounded and fallen with financial support and scholarships. My heart is warmed to see the amputees ski, ride bicycles, swim or even return to their units because of the support of MOAA and similar organizations.



Kudos to our MOAS members for always remembering our active military troops, veterans and their families. I salute all members of MOAA who continue to be Those Who Have Counted. ●

SAVE THE DATE AND GATHER YOUR FOURSOME!!!!

On Saturday September 17th, the Venice Chapter of MOAA is proudly hosting a golf tournament at The Plantation Golf & Country Club. All proceeds benefit the Venice High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC. The "best ball" format will begin with a shotgun start at 8:00 am and will be followed by lunch, presentation of awards, and prize drawings.

Here's your chance to play one of the premier courses in the area just before the LPGA qualifying rounds begin.

Tickets are only \$75 per golfer. Hole sponsorship is \$100 and green sponsorship is \$75.

Donations are tax deductible. All sponsors and donors will be recognized both in the program and at the award luncheon following the tournament.

For more information on tickets, sponsorship, and donations, please contact Robert "Rocky" McCutcheon at rjmccutch@comcast.net (375-8197) or Dallas Jensen at ltdallas@comcast.net (493-1420). ●



<<<---
(l to r)
Dennis Collins
with his guest
Richard Mantyla
and **Rick Windsor**



--->>>
(l to r)
Peggy O'Connell
with her daughter,
Mary O'Connell



<<<---
Vic & Nancy Reiling



--->>>
David Gold,
on right,
with his guest,
Ed Pokornicky



<<<---
**Bobby
Fernander
(a past MOAS
President)
with his guest,
Anita Kincaid**



--->>>
**(l to r)
Al Greiner with
his son,
Ray Greiner**



<<<---
**July Birthdays
(l to r)
Helen Bermann,
Janice
Sladzinski,
Charles &
Janice Caudill,
Mary Gordon,
Kay Tracy,
Beverly
Harlfinger**

JULY BIRTHDAYS



Due to great planning, the Marina Jack luncheon/cruise was the first whole day of sun in weeks, and the 23 YAHOO sailors took full advantage of a beautiful Sarasota day. In August we will have a Sunset Beach Party on Saturday, August 13 (NOTE: - Not the August 17th in the July Breeze). In September we will be at Sylvia Barber's for a Polynesian Night, and in October the Friedlanders and Scotts will sponsor an Oktoberfest party. November should pro-



vide perfect weather for another kayak trip.

AUGUST 13TH SUNSET BEACH PARTY ON LIDO KEY

If you have forgotten why we live in SW Florida, attend LTG Jerry and Geri Hilmes, USA (Ret.) Sunset Beach Party on August 13 at 6:30 p.m. at their cabana on Lido Key. In the true spirit of the YAHOO's past sunset beach parties, we will keep it very simple. Everyone brings their own chairs, hors d'oeuvres to share, and BYOB (Navy – grog). After socializing at the Hilmes' cabana we will migrate



down to the water for an 8:10 PM sunset.

DIRECTIONS: From St Armand's go west toward the Gulf until you reach Ben Franklin Drive. When the road ends at the Gulf of Mexico, turn left. After about a mile on Ben Franklin you will see the Lime Tree Resort on the right, then a condo, followed by your target, the Sun & Surf Colony, 1148 South Ben Franklin Drive. Take a right into the large parking area and you will have arrived. If you get to the Ritz Carlton, two doors down, you've missed it. Please RSVP by 6 August to Carol O'Brien at 907-8891, or by e-mail to cobrienvt@aol.com, so that we can estimate numbers and coordinate appetizers. Coordinated appetizers are an essential element of all YAHOO events — especially beach parties.

SEPTEMBER 24 - POLYNESIAN NIGHT AT SYLVIA'S (SEATING LIMITED TO 30)

In the true tradition of a Navy Officer who suffered through a hardship tour in Hawaii, Sylvia Barber is hosting a Polynesian Night at her home on Saturday, September 24th. Wear your best and brightest Hawaiian shirt, and be able to do the Hula while balancing a coconut on your head, a required skill for all YAHOOs. Since Sylvia's computer is in intensive care, please RSVP to her by phone at (941) 355-2987 by September 17th. Attendance is limited to 30 to lower the probability of someone ending up in the pool. Arrival time is 1700 hrs (5PM for sailors). BYOB. Sylvia's home is at 500 North Shore Drive, Sarasota. ●



Frankie Catalina, our speaker and Steel Drum player, discussing the origins of the Caribbean steel drum musical instrument



At the 2011 Sarasota Memorial Day parade, Sarasota's citizens took 1032 of our Support Our Troop box kits that contain all the necessary information on how to ship a Care Package to our military men and women engaged in combat operations.

A frequent question I hear is what percent of these boxes actually get shipped? Is it 1%, 50%, 75%, etc? We do not have a verifiable method to determine the percentage of SOT Boxes that are actually shipped unless we collect them, and ship them ourselves. To have shipped all those boxes would have been a major logistics effort, and have cost \$13,364. Our entire annual SOT budget is about \$9,000 (based on donations), and that is in a good year. The budget means we can pay to ship about 650 Care Packages a year.

We do run "Pay to Ship" drives, as when our members bring in filled boxes to the luncheons and we ship them. During the year we collaborate with churches, homeowner groups, high school JROTCs, Sarasota Military Academy, community organizations, etc. Many



To you, our active members, here is an update of our efforts to extend membership to eligible prospects of our Sarasota military community, who have yet to benefit from our local and national MOAA support and services. As you know from previous reports, we have essentially two ongoing membership campaigns in process to identify, educate and stimulate participation in our local MOAS activities and our national MOAA voice on Capitol Hill. Thanks to volunteer support and MOAA assistance, we have been able to reconcile our membership records with MOAA and, thereby, identify many eligible, local prospects to invite into the festivities of our Sarasota Chapter and national MOAA. Though we are pursuing this community of prospects with discretion and respect for privacy, we are committed to extending the opportunity to support and enjoy the camaraderie of MOAS activities. If you enjoy networking and would like to assist our membership campaign efforts, please contact me or any other of our Board members.

Our national organization, MOAA, of which we are an award-winning chapter, continues its 2011 "Give Me 10" chapter membership drive to recover lapsed national MOAA members and recruit new ones. MOAA reports that "This year's Give Me 10! Program has surpassed the 3,300 mark for new members/life membership conversions. We're well on our way to attaining the goal of 5,500 new members/life membership conversions for the year."

groups pay their own shipping, thereby allowing us to "target" our limited funds to such groups as high schools to encourage student participation. The continuous involvement of the community organizations in Sarasota results in thousands of boxes being sent overseas.

Now, back to the fate of the 1,032 Box Kits handed out at the Memorial Day parade. Participation in large, patriotic events by distributing our SOT boxes has several positive effects for our organization and is consistent with our goals. First, it provides increased visibility for the soldiers we support, reminding Americans of those few who honorably serve to protect the many. Second, it provides visibility for our Sarasota chapter, both to the general public, and to the veteran's community. Third, if 75% of those who take our SOT Box Kits trash the boxes that is unfortunate. However, Care Packages are being sent, and if only 25% of the kits we distribute are actually sent, that equates to more than 250 care packages from the Memorial Day drive alone. In addition, after every event we always receive daily calls requesting more boxes, address labels and information, even months after a parade. One recent request was for 100 boxes from a family running a youth summer program, and they were raising money for shipping. In 24 hours they called for another 100 boxes. Our participation at parades significantly contributes to the SOT Program.

In keeping with our efforts to Support Our Troops, we recently donated \$850 to the 101 Airborne Division, Ft Campbell, KY to help with a luncheon for the families of their recent fallen. •

That said, we could use a lot more action here locally! So, if you are renewing or joining MOAA for the first time, please do so through me so that you and we can take advantage of the "Give Me 10" Program discounts. This program offers significant financial incentives and bonuses to our MOAS chapter that will assist funding of our local scholarships, our "Support Our Troops" activities and other MOAS charitable and social programs. Notably, during this drive MOAA 1-year memberships are complimentary (free) to all on duty active, reserve and National Guard officers, and are 2-years-for-the-price-of-one (\$30) for all retired, auxiliary and/or former officers who are new or lapsed national MOAA members. This drive provides those MOAS members, who are not national MOAA members or whose memberships have lapsed, the opportunity to gain MOAA benefits at a 2-for-1 discount, while helping local MOAS chapter funding. I have the required "Give Me 10" enrollment forms and will handle related collection and submission activities for the chapter. Help strengthen our voice at the national level. Join MOAA!!

We encourage and appreciate your efforts to extend the hand of our chapter and of the national MOAA community.

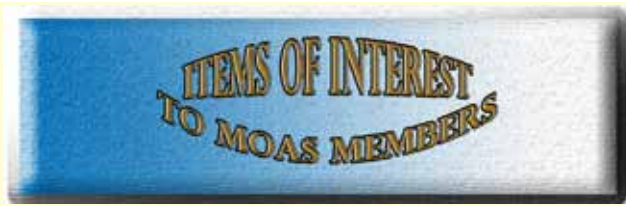
Welcome to our new members. Thanks for your support!!" •

Ronald B. Klineman, Capt USA (Linda)

6832 Coyote Ridge Ct
University Park, FL 34201-2117
(941) 358-0665 ronk100@tampabay.rr.com

Robert J. Menegaz, MD, Former Officer, USN (Donna Santarsiero)

2205 Mietaw Drive
Sarasota, FL 34239
(941) 952-0609 rjmwynj@gmail.com



VETERANS COURT' BACKLOG GROWING

The caseload at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, created two decades ago to weigh disability claims rejected by the Department of Veterans Affairs, has doubled in recent years, with the court deciding more than 600 cases per judge each year.

Veterans whose claims had spent years in the VA system often wait several more years for the court to rule on their disability or health care cases. With no statute of limitations, the current appeals are mostly from peacetime veterans and those who served in the first Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea and World War II.

The crisis at the court is likely to get worse with a wave of new appeals expected as injured Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are filing VA claims at historically high rates. New claims at the VA have nearly doubled since 2005, and of the 1.3 million living combat veterans discharged since 2001, nearly half have filed for benefits.

MOBILIZED RESERVE

The DoD announced that as of June 21st there were 96,105 national guard and reservists on active duty. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 73,231; Navy Reserve 5,147; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 10,232; Marine Corps Reserve, 6,199; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 785. The net result is 1,511 fewer reservists mobilized than two weeks earlier.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Army National Cemeteries Program Executive Director has established a call center to immediately address family member concerns regarding burial discrepancies at Arlington National Cemetery. Families with questions or concerns regarding their loved ones buried at Arlington National Cemetery should call (703) 607-8199 Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM (ET). In addition, a new toll-free phone number, (877) 907-8585, has been established for people calling long distance to make funeral arrangements at Arlington National Cemetery. For more information on funeral arrangements and eligibility, visit the Arlington National Cemetery website www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

TRICARE PHARMACY

On Jun 21st Walgreens said that contract renewal negotiations with the Tricare pharmacy benefit manager have been unsuccessful and, as a result, the company is not planning to be part of Express Scripts' Tricare pharmacy provider network as of Jan. 1, 2012. This should have minimal effect on Tricare-covered beneficiaries in our Sarasota area as, in addition to the Express Scripts mail order service, the local Tricare pharmacy network includes pharmacies at CVS, Publix, Target, Walmart and Sweetbay.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. ARMY

The Army announced on June 17th that the North Post of Fort Belvoir, Va., would be the site of the National Museum of the U.S. Army, scheduled to open in June 2013. The museum will be funded privately through the Army Historical Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving the Army's heritage. The next order of business is finalizing the museum's master plan. The Army is currently the only service without a centralized museum. For more information, contact Army Public Affairs at (703) 697-5344.

FLORIDA VET LEGISLATION

Gov. Rick Scott recently signed the following veteran-related bills:

- A Florida Veterans Hall of Fame will be established in the state Capitol.
- Gold Star parents will be honored with free lifetime entrance to Florida State Parks.
- Special recreational areas will be established in state forests for service-disabled veterans.
- A person's status as a veteran may be displayed on a Florida driver license or ID card for a small fee and proof of veteran status with a DD Form 214

VETERAN CHARITY SCAM

In the first successful prosecution in an expanding investigation of the U.S. Navy Veterans Association, a Tampa woman pleaded guilty June 22nd to a series of charges linking her to a multistate scam that fleeced millions of dollars from donors who thought they were contributing to veteran causes.

Blanca Contreras pled guilty in an Ohio courtroom to engaging in corrupt activity, complicity in aggravated theft, money laundering and tampering with records. She faces from three to 25 years in prison.

In March 2010, the St. Petersburg Times published "Under the Radar," stories that questioned the legitimacy of the U.S. Navy Veterans Association and examined more than \$180,000 in political contributions from the nonprofit's mysterious founder, Bobby Thompson. The group claims 41 state chapters, 66,939 members and annual income in excess of \$22 million (more than \$100 million since 2002). But its officers, members and auditors were nowhere to be found. Its charitable gifts are mostly undisclosed and unverifiable. Several state regulators opened investigations.

The New Mexico attorney general determined the charity's officers were "fictional" and ordered the group to cease operations there. Hawaii told the group to stop fundraising. Officials in Virginia, Missouri, Oregon and New Hampshire are investigating the charity. Minnesota regulators levied a \$21,000 fine against Thompson. Florida opened two investigations, by the attorney general and by the consumer services division. U.S. Sen. Jim Webb asked the Department of Veterans Affairs last year why the charity was on the VA's list of recommended veterans service organizations. The VA removed the charity from its website and promised more screening safeguards. Webb also asked the IRS to look into the charity. That investigation is ongoing. ●



MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

For 8/19/2011 at 11:30 AM - Michael's on East

PLEASE NOTE NEW PRICE AMOUNT

Please reserve _____ places for the luncheon.
A check for \$ _____ is enclosed based on **\$24.00**
for each person attending (Tax & Tip included).

NAME, RANK & PHONE # of Requesting Member.

Please print names of additional persons attending.
(Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary)

New or First Time Attending Member _____

Is this your birthday month? _____

Is this your spouse's birthday month? _____

Return the form above with check made out to MOAS. Mail to:

ELKE SCOTT
841 FORESTVIEW COURT
SARASOTA, FL 34232

Please Note: Elke's Phone #379-3023

NOTICE

We must provide the restaurant with an exact number of reservations at least 48 hours in advance of event. No additional requests or refunds will be honored after that time.

Requests for menu changes due to dietary restrictions should be provided at the time of reservation. Please do not contact Michael's-on-East directly. Thank you. •

MEDAL OF HONOR PRESENTED

On July 12 President Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to SFC Leroy Petry, only the second living recipient from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army Ranger earned the award when his team came under insurgent attack during a raid in Afghanistan in 2008. A fighter lobbed a grenade at his men, but SFC Petry grabbed it and tossed it away from his men without hesitation. He lost a hand in the process, but saved the lives of his men. After tying a tourniquet on his arm, he continued to lead his troops in completing their mission.

At <http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/petry/battlescape.html> is a play-by-play battlescape breaking down the event in detail.



MOAS CALENDAR – AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2011



Date	 Event 	Time
Aug 1, Mon	Board Meeting at Meadows Community Association	4:00 PM
Aug 13, Sat	YAH00 Event - Sunset Beach Party - Lido Key - Details Page 8	6:30 PM
Aug 19, Fri	MOAS Luncheon - Michael's On East - Ringling Museum & Circus Museum Dress Code - Casual  	11:30 AM
Sep 6, Tue	Board Meeting at Meadows Community Association	4:00 PM
Sep 16, Fri	MOAS Luncheon - Michael's On East - Joint Meeting SW Florida Chapters VADM Norbert Ryan (MOAA) Dress Code - Casual  	11:30 AM
Sep 24, Sat	YAH00 Event - Polynesian Night- Details Page 8	5:00 PM