

# 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

Vol XXII No 9

MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003 & 2007; 5-Star Chapter 2004-2006, 2008 - 2010;  
Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; 1st Runner Up 2008; 2nd Runner Up 2009

September  
2011

### AUGUST PROGRAM: FABULOUS ART COUPLED WITH THE EPICENTER OF THE AMERICAN CIRCUS

by Vic Reiling

At the August luncheon, we had a wonderful look at the inner-workings and future plans of both the Ringling Art Museum and the premier museum of the American Circus.

Steven High, who has recently taken leadership of the entire Ringling Museum complex, introduced us to near and future plans for this outstanding Sarasota venue. With one of our country's finest displays of European art already in place, there will be many added pieces of new and Asian art, a spectacular fall presentation of the world's finest Circus posters, an October 11-16th Performing Arts Fest both at the Asolo and on museum grounds, and a visual artistic transformation at sunset on December 22 which Steven indicates as impossible to describe!

On staff for 20 years, Circus Museum Curator Deborah Walk then took us through the lives, and the amazing Circus entertainments created by the five Ringling brothers, particularly John Ringling (who started his career as a singing clown). Their efforts led to the creation of a multi-ring "Canvas City Big Top" that accommodated more than 13,000 people on Circus Day - and that day was a major happening in so many of America's towns and cities! The vision and legacy of John Ringling made Sarasota the winter home of the circus, forever establishing our city as the epicenter of the American Circus!

An entirely new section of the Circus Museum (which will make Children-of-all-Ages feel that THEY are performing in the Circus) will open in September! ●



### SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: JOINT LUNCHEON - VADM NORBERT RYAN, JR.

by Vic Reiling



We are fortunate to welcome Vice Admiral (Ret.) Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., President of MOAA, to our September South West Florida Joint Chapters luncheon. Admiral Ryan is a 1967 Naval Academy graduate with a stellar career in Naval Aviation, as well as having been the 52nd Chief of Naval Personnel. As President of MOAA he leads one of the country's largest military associations with 355,000 members. Recently named the 2010 Association Executive of the Year by the national Association Trends publication, Admiral Ryan's leadership of MOAA has come during a challenging time for active duty and retired officers and their families. Over-stretched active forces, strained families, and changing medical needs are issues that the MOAA leadership has successfully addressed with our elected officials. MOAA will also be dealing with the drastic reduction in the DoD budget, and how it affects service members, families and retirees. It will be a privilege to hear from Admiral Ryan on MOAA's views of our national interests in this time of economic challenge. We expect a great turnout at the luncheon, with a large number of guests from other area chapters. Make your reservation early. Coat and tie are suggested. ●

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**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
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Photo Recorder	Barbara Hamilton	bah2762@aol.com	921-9250



George Binswanger, Secretary of our Chapter, has submitted his resignation from the MOAS Board of Directors, effective 1 September.

George has loyally served as our secretary for 10 years, not only being the Board parliamentarian, but getting out the Board agendas, preparing and keeping the official MOAS Board minutes, archiving all correspondence in effect all of our Chapter's historical information. The most harrowing part of his job over the years, however, has been keeping the Board Presidents out of trouble. In all his efforts, he has done a fantastic job.



George is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in Chemical Engineering. In 1941 he enlisted in the US Army, serving 3 years in the China/Burma/India Theater. He returned home after the war, and in 1948 was able somehow to talk Doris into marrying him, beginning a lifelong adventure together. They have two sons. They have enjoyed retirement in Sarasota, being frequent attendees of the Florida Studio Theater.

The Binswangers are moving to Chicago to be near one of their sons, and George is fully aware since he is over 90, he gets free membership in MOAS, and copies of our famous Breeze Newsletter to read on those beautiful winter days in Chicago.

BG Jim Hesson is Chairing the MOAS Nominating Committee for the 2012 MOAS Board. Members interested in serving on the Board or joining any Committee, please call Jim at 941-962-8702..

Next month is our annual Joint Luncheon. Since we will have Admiral Ryan, President of MOAA, as our guest speaker, invitations have gone out to not only our neighbor Chapters, but also to Chapters across the entire state of Florida. We have asked for a bigger room in anticipation of a large turnout. Since this is not a routine meeting, the dress is coat and tie.

Just before the September Luncheon I received a request from SGM Mitchell, the Senior Army Instructor at Riverview HS to help publicize the RHS JROTC Golf Tournament. The Riverview High School JROTC is hosting their First Annual Golf Tournament on 8 October 2011 at Heritage Oaks Country Club, and they wish to invite the golfing members of MOAS to participate. For additional information and an entry form please contact SGM Mitchell at roger\_mitchell@sarasota.k12.fl.us. Additionally if there are any business owners that would like to sponsor a hole or make donations for door prizes we would appreciate their support. One third of the profits will be provided to graduating Riverview JROTC cadets as educational grants. SGM Mitchell and the cadets at Riverview have been strong supporters of our SOT program, and I hope we can support their Tournament as well. ●

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The Board meeting was called to order at 1600 hours on 1 August, 2011 at the Meadows Community Center, President John O'Brien presiding.

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

**PRESIDENTS REPORT.** The dress for men at the September Joint Luncheon will be coat & tie and NOT casual as reported in the Breeze. It was announced that George Binswanger was stepping down after ten years as Secretary effective Sep 1, 2011.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT.** The minutes from the 5 July 2011 Board Meeting, as published in the Breeze, was approved. 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
September	6	16
October	3	21
November	7	18
December	5	11 (gala)

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** As of 31 July 2011:

- a. The balance in the MOAS Operating Fund is: \$ 6,194.73
  - b. The balance in the Scholarship Fund is: \$ 23,127.95
- This includes \$ 5,398.36 in Special Accounts (Support Our Troops and Taylor Funds)

**OLD BUSINESS.** None.

**SCHEDULED EVENTS.** The 15 July 2011 luncheon had a profit of \$134.00 with 86 in attendance. Scholarships received \$46.00 from 50/50 and SOT received \$16.00.

**PROGRAMS:**

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

**NEWSLETTER.** No Report.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

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

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROJECTS.** No Report.

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS:** Everything moving along fine.

**PUBLICITY.** MOAS has been getting excellent publicity.

**SARASOTA COUNTY VETERANS COMMISSION.** There will be a Nov 5 Stand Down at the Manatee County Convention Center. Details will be in a later Breeze. Sarasota County Veteran of the Year nominations are due October 15th.

**CHAPLAIN/SURVIVOR BENEFITS** A visitation list should be available of ill members (at home or hospitalized) for all MOAS members who may desire to visit.

**AUXILIARY:** To prepare a list of MOAA publications that will be available at the luncheons, and upon request.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A recommendation was made to replace the glasses we give to guest speakers with a MOAS coin, and by majority vote was turned down.

**NEXT MEETING.** The Board adjourned at 1700 hours. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 1600 hours at the Meadows Community Center. All members are welcome to attend. ●



**See President's message on page 2. George gets a certificate (and tumblers). Doris gets a bouquet of flowers**



### ***DEBT DEAL: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW***

After months of tense negotiations Congress agreed to a last minute debt reduction deal and raised the debt ceiling – a Congressional limit on government borrowing – just in time to meet the Treasury Department’s August 2nd deadline to avoid a potential government default. The agreement sets a course for future federal spending reductions, but is short on details, relying largely on the budget cutting recommendations of a soon to be formed Congressional “Super Committee.” In many ways the deal reflects the inability of Congress to come to terms with spending cuts. Here’s what we know about the deal:

- Enacts \$900 Billion in federal spending cuts over 10 years (including \$350B from the DoD budget)
- Authorizes a debt limit increase of at least \$2.1 Trillion
- Establishes a Congressional bipartisan Joint Committee to identify \$1.5 Trillion in debt reduction, and may consider tax revenue measures
- If agreement not reached and passed by Dec 23, requires \$1.2 Trillion in cuts divided between defense and non-defense defense spending
- Ensures a balanced budget constitutional amendment vote by December 2011

So—if we can stop watching the bouncing stock market—all eyes will be on the “Super Committee” whose debt reduction recommendations are due Nov 23, 2011, and Congress is required to vote on their recommendations without amendment by Dec 23, 2011.

The Super Committee is authorized to look at both discretionary and direct (mandatory) spending, meaning that military retirement, TFL, Social Security, etc., are on the table for cutting. However, if the Committee cannot reach an agreement on how to cut an additional \$1.5 trillion from the debt or if their recommended cuts fail to be adopted by Congress, an enforcement mechanism (sequestration) will trigger automatic, draconian spending reductions starting in 2013. The cuts would be split 50/50 between domestic and defense spending (defense spending cuts would be about \$50 billion per year). The severity of this process is intended to force Congress to act and prioritize what reductions should be made.

If sequestration is implemented; Social Security, Medicare beneficiaries (but not providers), federal civil service retirement, military retirement and low-income programs will be exempt from mandatory cuts. However, the cuts could leave TRICARE and Medicare providers extremely vulnerable. The magnitude of these cuts may prevent a “doc fix” this year, which would deeply hurt access to care.

And this would be only the beginning of several years of successive budget reductions. Both the ‘right’ and the ‘left’ are looking to reduce defense spending, and the quickest way is to cut manpower and compensation. In this environment, it will be essential for the military and veterans communities to stay alert and actively involved to protect against Congress and DoD abrogating long-standing commitments.

Today’s budget environment is worse than ever before, and the competition for limited dollars will activate massive lobbying, campaign donations and more, all aimed at protecting weapons and other programs that mean jobs in home districts. If we hope to protect the people programs that are the fundamental underpinnings to sustain a quality career force, we’ll need everyone on board. The time to do so is right now. Contact Congressman Buchanan, Senator Rubio and Senator Nelson urging them to protect the people programs that are so vital to maintaining a quality all-volunteer force.

### ***SENATE COMMITTEE WHACKS COMMISSARIES (?)***

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee recently approved the “Caring for Camp Lejeune Veterans Act of 2011” (S. 277), sponsored by the senior Republican on the Committee Sen. Burr (R-NC). The bill authorizes VA health care for former military family members and veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 when the water at the base was contaminated with carcinogens.

However, without prior notice or hearing, the committee voted unanimously, to fund the care by eliminating the federal subsidy for military commissaries and directing consolidation of all DoD commissaries and exchanges. MOAA supports expanding VA care to cover Camp Lejeune veterans, but it strongly opposes this sneak attack on the military benefit package.

First, the Veterans Affairs Committee has no jurisdiction over, and no knowledge of, DoD commissary and exchange systems, which are under the purview of the Armed Services Committee.

Second, they propose virtually dismantling the commissary system without any effort to assess the adverse impact of such a dramatic cut to a core military benefit.

Third, they seek to poach DoD funds to pay for VA health care at a time when DoD personnel budgets already are under threat.

The commissary is one of DoD’s most cost-effective people programs. Without the federal subsidy, commissaries would eventually go out of business, as prices would have to rise, and savings to customers would be lost. The Committee needs to find another way to fund the legislation besides raiding the military commissary system.

### ***VA Agent Orange Presumptive Exposure***

The Senate defeated, by a vote of 69-30, Sen. Tom Coburn’s (R-OK) amendment to the MilCon/VA Spending Bill seeking to change the way presumptive disabilities related to Agent Orange exposure would be determined. If approved, it would have significantly restricted benefits to Vietnam veterans. Currently Vietnam vets are presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange if they have certain conditions or diseases after the VA determines that a positive association exists between the disease and the exposure. Congress chose this mechanism because it is nearly impossible for Vietnam vets to prove that Agent Orange exposure caused their disease.

Sen. Coburn wanted to require veterans to prove a positive connection between Agent Orange exposure and one or more of the 15 presumptive illnesses that the VA now recognizes. Requiring a “causal relationship” would essentially have meant that VA benefits for Agent Orange exposure would have been out of reach for many Vietnam vets that were exposed to Agent Orange. Since the VA Secretary determined he had the scientific evidence required to recognize the disabilities, Coburn wanted to change the presumptive rules, presumably as a cost saving measure to balance the budget. . ●



### WHO DO WE TRUST

**‘Some trust in chariots and some in horses but we must trust in the name of the Lord our God.’**

**Psalms 20:7**

There isn't a day that goes by when I don't hear from the media the comment: *"I can't trust them."* Trust seems to have disappeared from our culture. We may feel disappointment and hurt in those whom we trusted, and that has caused many to be skeptical. I feel so blessed to have been raised by parents whom I trusted completely. I still remember as a young child after having a nightmare, climbing in bed with my parents, feeling totally secure. My grandfather used to buy horses with a simple handshake. Your word was your bond.

Today some have lost trust in their mates, work supervisors, doctors, lawyers, politicians or even their clergy. People have started trusting only themselves, and are finding out they are limited. There is less spiritual direction and as a result it is hard to have joy or peace in our life.

A case in point is a joke I heard a long time ago: there was an aircraft carrier surrounded by thick fog. From the bridge, the Admiral saw a light directly in the ship's path. Thinking that it was an approaching ship, the Admiral sent a frantic message to them to turn to starboard. To his dismay a return message advised the aircraft carrier to turn to port. Angrily, the Admiral sent back a message saying that his ship was an aircraft carrier and he was an Admiral and was ordering the approaching ship to turn starboard. Immediately, a message was returned that said: "I am a lighthouse, do as you please." Are we so filled with self-centeredness and false power that we may very well ignore the light from the Lighthouse and run aground. How many of us have lost our spiritual guidance system because we no longer recognize the voice of God.

For years I kept a sign on my desk that simply stated: *"Love God and do as you please."* I feel our problem today is that we have lost our fundamental faith in God and our direction in life. We must learn to know when God speaks to us. Even in our prayers to God, we often don't listen for His answers.

A true lack of trust took place on April 4, 1943. "Lady Be Good", one of 25 B-24's of the 376<sup>th</sup> Heavy Bombardment Group took off from their AAF Base at Soluch, Libya for a high altitude bombing attack against harbor facilities at Naples, Italy. The plane never returned from its mission. Almost 16 years later in February, 1959 several British geologists were flying over the desolate Libyan desert and at approximately 400 miles south of Soluch they sighted in the sand



the lost "Lady Be Good". Evidence indicated that the crew had not trusted their instruments. A strong tail wind had pushed the plane over the base long before the expected time of arrival. The instruments were telling them that they had reached their destination, but they did not trust them. They had flown over their base and southward into the desert. As their fuel supply became depleted, the nine men bailed out and died in the desert. They died because they had not trusted their guidance system. Trust is a guarded treasure and if it is lost it takes much effort to restore.

We have reached a time in history in which some have lost their way. They walk around aimlessly, unhappy and unfulfilled. Long ago we lost our trust in our spiritual instrument.

This reminds me of the story of a shepherd who had a fiddle that he loved to play. It brought him joy and comfort. The fiddle became out of tune after he had played it a period of time. He no longer could stand the sound of the notes. No one close to him could tune the fiddle where he lived so he wrote the radio station to sound an "A" at a specific time. Only a pure "A" could restore the sounds that the fiddle was made to produce. So it is with us. We must go to our Creator to sound a pure "A" for us.

**“Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the One who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all.”**

**Proverbs 3: 5-6. •**

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### GOLFERS – WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY to play Plantation Golf and Country Club, one of the area's premier private courses and home to the annual LPGA Tour Qualifying Tournament. We still have several spots available for the Venice MOAA Chapter's Benefit Golf Tournament Saturday, September 17th. Scramble format -- Shotgun start.**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE VENICE  
H.S. MARINE CORPS JROTC**

**The price per player is only \$75 and includes cart, luncheon, awards, and prizes. There will be a Grand Prize Drawing for a catered sunset cruise for 12 people on a beautiful yacht courtesy of Marine Max of Venice and the chance to win a fantastic prize if you get a hole-in-one on any Par 3. JOIN US -- A FUN TIME FOR A GOOD CAUSE!!**

**Call or e-mail MOAS member Rocky McCutcheon [RIGHT AWAY](mailto:rjmccutch@comcast.net) (941-375-8197 or [rjmccutch@comcast.net](mailto:rjmccutch@comcast.net)) so we can reserve your place.**



**(l to r) Paul Hudson (Johnsons' guest) Our speakers, Deborah Walk & Steven High, Pat & Bob Johnson, Jim Tollarton (Johnsons' guest)**



**Alice DeCaprio, on right, with her guest, Shirley Maranda**



**Rita Thompson (standing) with daughters (l to r) Gerianne Dudash & Erni Thompson**



**Roger & Sally Betts flank their guests, Mike Richardson & Irene Murray**



**Janice Sladzinski, on left) with guest, Kathy Brogan**



**Jim Fraley, on left, with his guest (new member) Matthew Woodside (Dir. of Exhib. & Collect. Bishop Planetarium)**



**Ken Martin with his guest, Barbara Joseph**



July was a busy month for our members. We started out with a luncheon in the air conditioned comfort of the Marina Jack yacht while cruising Sarasota Bay. Beautiful blue water, porpoises, and a little wine with good friends made for a perfect day. Then came the monthly luncheon at Michael's on East, this time with a program truly made for the tropics; Caribbean music on the steel drums by the talented local entertainer Frankie Catalina. A week later we kayaked the Little Sarasota Bay and Midnight Pass, with mullet jumping (why?), osprey everywhere, and the strong current made the mangrove tunnels challenging. We were joined by Tyler, the Friedlander's grandson. Not only was he a good kayaker, but he was much better than Granddad. The Hilmes' Sunset Beach Party on Lido Key was another beautiful Florida evening on the beach. No one starved with the spread of every food type known to man. In fact we almost ate through the sunset.



Upcoming in September will be a Polynesian Night at Sylvia's, with unpronounceable foods, banana leaf plates, tapa cloth napkins and shrunken heads. October the Scotts and Friedlanders will sponsor an Oktoberfest party. November has been scheduled for kayaking.



**SEP 24 - POLYNESIAN NIGHT AT SYLVIA'S**

(seating limited to 30)



In the true tradition of a Navy Officer who suffered through a harrowing hardship tour on the lonely island of Oahu, 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. Sylvia's computer is in intensive care, so 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 (5:00 PM for sailors). BYOB. Sylvia's home is at 500 North Shore Drive, Sarasota.

**OCT 9 - OKTOBERFEST 2011**

(seating limited to 30)



Join the Yahoos for the 2011 Oktoberfest co-hosted by Elke and Troy Scott and Christa and Len Friedlander. Hold on ladies, brought to you by the hosts at no cost, the past multiple winner of the TV series blockbuster "worst knees in Sarasota" will be there. Our one and only Troy Scott decked out in his cute lederhosen. For a reasonable fee, you can get a personal picture with Troy on your lap. The festivities will begin Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 5:00 PM at 841 Forestview Court, Sarasota, FL 34232. With Christa and Elke's good German cooking be prepared for a diet busting evening. Please make your reservations no later than September 23, 2011 (maximum 30 persons) by calling Christa at 927-0996. Contributions of appetizers or desserts will be gladly accepted. . ●



As you know, our ability to effectively keep you, our members, informed, depends heavily on the accuracy and currency of your information in our MOAS membership database. In my efforts to maintain and use this critical file to communicate with you, I have found, for example, that many of you cannot receive email due to an inaccurate or missing email address. Since email is our most efficient, timely and low-cost means of reaching you, one of my goals this year is to be able to reach 100% of the MOAS membership via email. You may be sure that we will be discrete and infrequent in our use of email with only what you need to know. We appreciate your support toward accomplishing this objective by letting me, or any board member, know if your email or other contact information changes.

To cite a few statistics for our ongoing membership campaigns at the local (MOAS) and national (MOAA) levels, our team effort with the MOAA office has identified 143 active MOAA members who are being invited to join our Sarasota chapter and 134 active Sarasota chapter members who are prospects for the MOAA "Give Me Ten" national membership campaign. These likely candidates along with other groups of active, former and retired local veterans, who have been invited to our multi-chapter luncheon in September, provide a promising outlook for increased membership as we approach the home stretch of 2011.

So, how have we done so far this year with our local membership campaign? Well, though we have added 31 new active members since January, our net active membership increase is 8 (437 to 445). So we are indeed growing. Slowly thus far, but expect to pick up the pace through the remainder of the year. Let me know if you encounter a worthy candidate, with an email address, if possible.

And remember, 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 Sarasota chapter and of the national MOAA community. Thanks for your support!! •

**DIRECTORY CHANGES**

*New Member*

**Dr. Martin A. Rammer, COL, USA (Ret)**

**(Anne Mack)**

2791 Ringwood Meadows  
Sarasota, FL 34235-7133  
(941) 921-1734 mrammerjr@aol.com

*Add Entry Inadvertently Omitted From Directory*

**Ethelyn P. Gould, Mrs.**

2150 Hyde Park St.  
Sarasota, FL 34239  
(941) 955-3416

Change of Address - Retiring from U.S. Army

**Linda L. Gould, COL USA (Ret)**

40 Arbor Oaks Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
(941) 388 7149 LLGould@aol.com

Change of Address - Moving

**Peggy O'Connell, Mrs.**

2144 N. Lincoln Park West Apt 20-A  
Chicago, IL 60614

**George L. Binswanger, COL, USA (Ret) (Doris)**

1700 N. McCormick Blvd, #304B  
Lincolnwood, IL 34231-5048 cbinsy@verizon.net

**Anne C. Mack, Auxiliary (Marty)**

2791 Ringwood Meadows  
Sarasota, FL 34235-7133  
(941) 921-1734 tmag1@verizon.net

Correction of Phone Number

**Ronald B. Klineman, Capt USA (Linda)**

(941) 358-0669





Written this month by Jim Hesson

***“THANK YOU!”***

Two words that many people think are not used enough. Two words that can convey powerful emotion when one considers a simple act that meant so much to other people causing them to say, “Thank You!” This is one “Thank You” that I know comes from the heart.

As you know, we are supporting the 159th Aviation Brigade, a unit of the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division from Ft. Campbell, KY. The 159th is presently deployed in Kandahar, Afghanistan. They, like many others, are serving another of their multiple combat tours. Last month we told you we had donated money for the 159th Family Readiness Group (FRG) to sponsor two “Honor and Recognition” luncheons for the families of the six soldiers from the 159th who lost their lives in an IED explosion in May. Before anyone leaps to a conclusion that the Army should sponsor such a luncheon, I want to make it clear that the Army does a wonder-

ful job of taking care of the families of our lost soldiers. In this case, the 159th FRG wanted to do something special and personal for the families to recognize their lost loved ones. The luncheon was a personal expression supported by us to let all the families know that everyone associated with the 159th mourned with them and shared their loss as a member of the 159th unit family. For all of you who have donated funds to “Operation S-O-T” or supported it in-kind, the following “Thank You,” while sent to me, is really addressed to all of you.

*General Hesson. I want to personally thank you for your gracious donation. Your donation made life just a little bit better for the families of lost loved ones during such (an) emotional time. God Bless.*

*Signed,*

*Major and Mrs. James Gafney*

*159th CAB (R)(P).”*

A “Thank You” is sent to all of you supporting our program with your financial contributions, and for mailing boxes to those who deserve our continuing support.

Have you participated recently? . ●



**August Birthdays (l to r) George Tracy, Marilyn Tschirgi, Troy Scott, Gwenne Heiser, Jon Gordon, Natalie Zonies, Jerry Welch**



## ***BUDGET CRISIS AFFECTS***

### ***MILITARY READINESS***

The Vice Chiefs of the four military services provided sobering testimony at a House Armed Services Subcommittee hearing Tuesday. Readiness Subcommittee Chairman Randy Forbes (R-VA) began by noting, “No one will dispute that we have the most capable and professional military in the world. However, I worry about the ... looming defense budget cuts many in Congress seem willing to inflict on our military.”

Asked about the readiness effects of the \$400B cut proposed three months ago, all the Vice Chiefs said readiness is at an ‘acceptable’ level, but the services are unable to support all mission requirements of the combatant commanders. They described declining trends in readiness and stress across forces and infrastructure. If required to sustain additional cuts above the \$400B, they said risks would grow significantly -- requiring substantial force structure cuts and altering national strategy requirements.

### ***COULD YOU HANDLE A 5%-20%***

#### ***RETIRED PAY CUT?***

If you’re following the ongoing debt ceiling/budget negotiations (and you should be), you know multiple plans have been offered to cap federal spending or require a balanced budget. Those sound reasonable in concept (how can a balanced budget not be a good thing?). But do you understand how they would affect you?

In many cases, the specifics are vague...either because they have yet to be worked out, or because it’s inconvenient to have constituents understand exactly what kind of pain would be involved before there’s a vote. In some cases, proposals have been pretty specific. In others, impacts have to be inferred by doing some math.

To start, let’s look at the “Cut, Cap and Balance” legislation (H.R. 2560) that was passed by the House, and then blocked in the Senate. Among other things, that legislation envisioned capping federal outlays below 20 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by FY2017 (current outlays are about 24% of GDP).

For FY2014 and subsequent years, H.R. 2560 would explicitly exempt military personnel accounts, military (but not federal civilian) retired pay, TRICARE For Life (TFL), Social Security, Medicare and veterans’ benefits from cuts. But a separate section citing exemptions for FY2012 lists only Social Security, Medicare, veterans’ benefits, and net interest.

One of the most modest plans is the Corker-McCaskill budget cap bill (S. 245) that would phase in reductions at a more moderate pace, limiting FY2013 spending to 25% of the FY09-11 average GDP, with further reduction in later years. It would allow no exemptions. That would require a 5% cut in FY 2013 outlays for retired pay, TFL, and SBP, for example, with cuts escalating each year to 19% by FY2021. Giving up COLAs for five years would be a head start to meet those goals, but more would be needed – perhaps rolling back

some concurrent receipt payments. A 5% cut in TFL would require something on the order of a \$350 per person annual TFL deductible. For SBP, it would require several years of COLA forfeitures, plus maybe rolling back recent payments to SBP-DIC widows or reinstating some level of benefit reduction upon receipt of Social Security.

Initiatives that would cap spending at lower percentages of GDP would impose far more severe cuts. For example, the balanced budget amendment (H.J. Res 1) introduced in the House would cap federal outlays at 20% of GDP. The Judiciary Committee subsequently amended it to reduce that to 18%. Neither version exempts any spending category, allowing the ceilings to be waived only in years when war is formally declared, or Congress passes a joint resolution if the country is engaged in armed conflict.

Another proposal endorsed by a group of senators calling themselves the “Gang of 6” includes initiatives similar to those proposed by last year’s deficit commission. They would dramatically reduce military retirement value for new entrants, require holders of Medicare supplement policies (including TFL) to absorb an extra \$3,000 per year (\$6,000 per couple), raise TRICARE fees for retired military families under 65 by up to \$2,000 a year or more, and freeze military pay raises, among other things.

While none of these plans have come to fruition, it pays to be cognizant of the current environment and, most of all, to be aware of the impact of each of these plans on your personal situation.

### ***COLA & ‘CHAINED CPI’***

One of the most frequently mentioned options by most parties at the deficit-cutting table is a technical correction to the CPI called the ‘chained CPI’. It’s gone under the radar for the most part. But if implemented, it could affect the lives of almost all Americans — especially service members, federal civilian employees, Social Security recipients, and other retirees and survivors.

The ‘chained CPI’ isn’t a new idea. Some economists believe the CPI overstates inflation by failing to adequately recognize that consumers change their behavior when prices of some products and services rise sharply. When that happens, economists say, people simply buy cheaper substitute products — carrots instead of peas or tea instead of coffee. The case gets even stickier with other substitutions. Is hamburger a reasonable substitute for steak? Is a compact car a reasonable substitute for a full-size one? Is pasta a reasonable substitute for fish? Is shopping at a discount store a reasonable substitute for shopping at a high-end department store?

This is not just price substitution. It’s also quality-of-life substitution, leading over time to substantial changes in living patterns. But looking beyond the philosophy to the bottom line, the chained CPI would reduce retired pay and other COLAs by about ¼% each year. That doesn’t sound like much, until you see how that would compound over a retiree’s lifetime. Military retirees, and the disabled particularly, would be affected because they start drawing inflation-adjusted pay at relatively younger ages. For a military retiree, switching to a chained CPI COLA could reduce total lifetime retired pay by about 6%. That’s about \$100,000 for an E-7 retiring today with 20 years of service, or twice that amount for a newly retiring O-5 with 20 years of service.

MOAA is not a fan of the chained CPI. It may be the lesser of the evils we might face during the coming fiscal crunch. But that doesn’t make it right.. ●

Friday **MOAS Luncheon**  
**Sep. 16, 2011**  
**Michael's on East**



**SERVED LUNCHEON**

Tossed Field & Leaf Lettuces with Fresh Raspberries, Toasted Pine Nuts, Crumbled Goat Cheese & Balsamic Vinaigrette

**ENTREE**  
 Classic chicken picatta napped with a lemon white wine parsley sauce, Lemon and Pistachio pilaf, Grilled Asparagus & Baby Carrots

**Signature Bread Basket**

**SERVED DESSERT**  
 Apple Strudel: Classic of Apples, Raisins & Spices Rolled into Delicate Crust. Served with Vanilla Sauce

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

**MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

For 9/16/2011 at 11:30 AM - Michael's on East

**PLEASE NOTE 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:

**PATRICIA McLAIN**  
**4746 MARSHFIELD ROAD**  
**SARASOTA, FL 34235-5695**

Please Note: Pat's Phone #371-0883

**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. •







**David Gold, on left, with his guest, Irving Miller**



## MOAS CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2011



Date	 Event 	Time
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) 	11:30 AM
Sep 24, Sat	YAHOO Event - Polynesian Night - Details Page 7	5:00 PM
Oct 3, Mon	Board Meeting at Meadows Community Association	4:00 PM
Oct 9, Sun	YAHOO Event - OKTOBERFEST - Details Page 7	5:00 PM
Oct 21, Fri	MOAS Luncheon - Michael's On East Program TBA 	11:30 AM