Our January Luncheon Speaker Brings Great News

MOAACC's 2016 Luncheon Speaker’s Program begins at the IRCC Colony Club on 19 January 2016 at 1130 with the Director of the new Cape Canaveral National VA Cemetery (CCNC). Mr. Don W. Murphy has been assigned since November 2014 to supervise the planning, construction, dedication, operational beginning, burials and maintenance of the first, and long awaited, National Veterans Cemetery in east-central Florida. Many MOAACC members attended the 20 November 2015 Dedication of the CCNC and had a chance to meet him and some of his terrific staff. Mr. Murphy will be able to bring us up to date on the project and answer questions about what is becoming a beautiful and special place near the northern most boundary of Brevard County off US Route 1. Make your reservations for the luncheon early using the form found on page 16.

Mr. Murphy began his career with the National Cemetery Administration in Nashville in 1992 after having served in the US Army's 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After assignments in Washington, DC with many regional responsibilities, he moved to the Memorial Programs Service (MPS) and was Chief of Operations and Deputy Director from 2006 - 2014.

The CCNC will begin burials in late 2015 or early 2016 and is already accepting applications for veterans and their family members who are deceased. The 318 acre CCNC will serve the burial needs of more than 163,000 Veterans in the Cemetery’s service over the next 100 years. While waiting to hear Mr. Murphy you can reach out to his staff on 321-383-2638 M-F 0800-1630 hours or via the website at www.cem.va.gov.

We are very pleased to have Mr. Murphy take time to speak with us and appreciate the efforts of the entire staff to make this huge and complex project a reality in a relatively short time since construction contracts were awarded in September 2014.

Annual MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter’s Installation Banquet

The annual MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter’s Installation Banquet will be on Saturday, 9 January 2016, at IRCC’s Colony Hall. Cocktails at 5:00 pm, call-to-order (invocation, pledge and Service songs) at 5:45 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, program at 7:15 pm and dancing until 9:45 pm. Music will be provided by the fabulous “Sass N’ Brass” from Jacksonville.

Come join us to thank our outgoing Officers and Directors and to welcome our new leadership. The Installing Officer will be MG John Cleland, USA Ret.

Dinner entrees are Tournedos of Beef or Chicken Oscar. The meal includes twice baked potato plus a vegetable, salad, roll, butter, coffee, tea, and ice cream sundae. The cost is $38/person. The dress is formal (military dress, tuxedo or dark suit – and appropriate ladies’ attire). Mail your reservation to Jody Jessen, 900 Cormorant Ct., Viera, FL 32955. Organize a group of friends and neighbors – maximum of ten per table. Please send your reservation with your names and entree choices and a check made out to MOAACC to arrive by 4 January 2016.

Send to Jody Jessen, 900 Cormorant Ct., Viera, FL 32955.

MOAA Installation Banquet

IRCC Colony Hall • Saturday, 9 January 2016
5 pm Cocktails – 5:45 pm Call to Order – 6 pm Dinner – 7:15 pm Program – Dancing until 9:45 pm

Names ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

Please seat me with: ___________________________

Number of each entrée selection: Beef ___________ Chicken Oscar ___________

RSVP to arrive PRIOR to 4 January 2016. Mail Check for $38 ea. (payable to MOAACC) and this coupon to Jody Jessen, 900 Cormorant Ct, Viera, FL 32955.
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MOACC Scholarship Fund
As of 30 November 2015 was 1427 of whom 345 are Life Members.

Visit us at www.moaacc.org

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CHAPTER CLUB ACTIVITIES

Thursday Morning Breakfast Club
TMBC meets each Thursday at 0800 at the 19th Hole, Indian River Colony Club (IRCC).
CAPT Robert D. Watts, USAF  610-7602

Monthly Luncheon - 11:30 AM
Meets the 3rd Tuesday at Colony Hall IRCC. Reservation Form, Program and Menu on page 16.
Maj Joseph J. Oblack, USAF  453-2947
Ruth Oblach, Sp Mbr  453-2947

Current Affairs Forum
Meets 3rd Thursday every other month starting January at the 19th Hole, IRCC immediately following TMBC.
CAPT Ernest H. Joy II, USAF  757-0193

On-the-Go
Meets 2nd Tuesday for lunch at local restaurants.
Details on page 5.
Mary Dunagan, AUX  784-8934

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Contributions to the MOAAC Scholarship Fund should be sent to:
P.O. Box 254708, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-4708.
**President’s Perspective**

**CAPT Robert Watts, USN (Ret)**

**A Month of Contrast**

Wow, this past year flew by. I am proud to have served as your President this past year. A robust membership with very supportive leadership made my job easy. I feel proud to be handing the reins of a financially robust, philanthropically focused and socially progressive organization to the 2016 Leadership Team.

As I depart the arena I would like to remind the membership that for this chapter to remain a leader within MOAA each member must fully accept our role as members of the membership committee. Imagine how much larger this chapter could grow if each member recruited just one new member. WOW! But being more realistic, how about 50% of our members recruiting one new member. Still WOW! This is not an unreasonable goal. Find out what the potential member is looking for in an organization. Whatever it is, I bet MOAACC offers it; we advocate, we socialize, we are leaders within our community, we serve our community.

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through our philanthropic efforts, we sing, we dance, we do it all. And, we do it all so well. Who would not want to be a part of this chapter once they understand who we are and what we do? How many times do you ask someone to join? You ask them until they tell you to stop asking them to join then you have someone else ask them. With the efforts of Jeff Rogers and his membership team we grew the membership from the low 1300 in the beginning of the year to over 1425 as the year closed out. Can we reach that magic 2000 member mark in 2016? Yes We Can If Each Of Us Recruits One New Member. “We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible.” (C. Malesherbes)

Thank you for allowing me the honor and pleasure of being your President in 2015.

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**Legislative Affairs**

**By RADM Wayne Justice, USCG (Ret)**

Greetings engaged MOAACC members! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Unfortunately we will not have more in our bank accounts to pay the bills. Since the inflation index ended up zero in 2015, there will be no COLA in 2016 for military retired pay, Social Security, VA compensation, or survivor benefits.

As 2015 wraps up, it’s been a ground breaking year. The 2016 Defense Authorization Act dramatically overhauls the military retirement system. The new plan will be imposed on new service members starting 1 January 2018, and all currently in uniform or already retired will be grandfathered under the current system. NDAA 2016 also has Part B premium hikes for about 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries. Those who will see higher Part B premiums include people who will enroll in Medicare for the first time in 2016, or have incomes above $85,000 a year ($170,000 for couples), or are enrolled in Medicare but not receiving Social Security payments. All Medicare enrollees will see an annual deductible increase to $167 from the current $147. Without the budget deal, it would have been $233.

The Military Times reports The Veterans Affairs Department has announced new eligibility criteria for the Veterans Choice Program that should allow more veterans to access private health services closer to home. VA staffers have been given broader flexibility to determine eligibility for the Choice program if they believe a veteran faces an “undue burden” while traveling for treatment at a VA facility, such as a geographic barrier, environmental factors, a severe medical condition or a need for frequent care, such as chemotherapy or tests that can be done quickly closer to home. The changes, which are effective immediately, also include an alteration of the program’s 40-mile distance standard from any VA medical facility to include at least 40 miles of driving to a VA facility with a full-time primary care doctor. That change alone will open the program to about 160,000 more veterans. And the new rules also open eligibility to any veterans who must travel by air, boat or ferry to their nearest VA facility. In their announcement, VA officials said the change will expand the program, established in late 2014, which allows veterans to see a civilian health care provider if they live in a remote area or can’t get an appointment at a VA facility within 30 days. VA officials said veterans interested in finding out whether they qualify for Choice under expanded eligibility should call 866-606-8198.

Looking ahead to NDAA 2017, the Military Times reports both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees are promising "a major oversight and reform effort" to the military health care system. Earlier this year, the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recommended changes to the health system, to include moving non-active duty Tricare beneficiaries to civilian health insurance plans and making military hospitals and clinic competitive with civilian facilities. And, Defense Secretary Ash Carter, looking to push ahead an array of changes to the military personnel system, announced plans to create a high-tech personnel management system for marching individual troops with job assignments, an online network he compared to social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. Other changes include streamlining transitions between active and reserve components and creating a new “chief recruiting officer”, a civilian to oversee forcewide efforts to attract top talent. He said other reforms- including some that could impact military pay, benefits and the way officers are promoted- may be on the horizon. Looks to be another busy legislative year, and very important for MOAACC to stay engaged!

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**BE INFORMED**

Where Do Your Legislators Stand?
Visit moaa.org/takeaction to send a message to elected officials asking them to support key legislation that affects the military.
Activities

MOAACC

Good Deeds Foundation Presents $5K Check to Operation Warmheart

In this photo, 2015 MOAACC President Robert Watts, 2016 MOAACC President Donn Weaver and RADM Wayne Justice, USCG Ret, present a $5,000 donation from MOAACC’s Good Deeds Foundation for Operation Warmheart at Patrick Air Force Base to Brig Gen Wayne R. Monteith, 45th Space Wing Commander and CMSgt Jason A. Lamoureux, Command Chief.

Operation Warmheart is run by the 1st Sergeants Council on PAFB and it spends between $7,000 to $9,000 annually supporting over 300 service members throughout the year with financial assistance not otherwise available through DoD or service agencies; as well as holiday food baskets to military families at home; and care packages to deployed service members. This organization operates solely from donations and MOAACC is proud to be able to assist them in making these efforts successful.

VA Medical Center Book Drive

As reported in last month’s Intercom, MOAACC rented a truck and Joe Oblack and I delivered 57 boxes of books to the new Orlando VA hospital-Clinic on October 26, 2015. Many thanks to my neighbors in Briarwood who donated books and those who pitched in and helped load the truck. On 24 November, Vista and I stopped by the VA Med Center library; we had two more boxes to donate. According to the staff, the volunteers are still cataloging the previous donations, so no more book donations are needed at this time. The clinic is open, and patients will arrive at the hospital in late February or early March 2016. Many thanks to all who donated and helped move books. Happy New Year to all!
Lee and Vista Boyland

AF and Spouses Luncheon

Saturday, January 16, 2016
Social 11:30 Lunch 12 Noon
Program: Updates on the Brevard Zoo
Hostess: Andrea Eufrazio
Make reservations with Robbie at 255-6050 • NLT January 13
Everyone is welcome!

Navy Wives

The January luncheon will be held on January 15th at the Tides Club. Social hour begins at 11:30 AM and lunch served at noon. Shelly Anderson and Jamie Maden, Certified Yoga Instructors, will present our program. They will be instructing us on Chair Yoga, which can benefit anyone no matter your age or physical limitations.

Our menu will be your choice of Chicken or Mushroom Lasagna, Fresh Fruit Salad or Large Chef Salad. For information and to make reservations, call Anne Bordy at 213-6012 or 652-9802 by noon, Tuesday, January 12th.

Remember friends and spouses are always welcome.
Ellie Joy (757-0193)

Army Wives

The Army Wives and Friends will greet the New Year at The Tides, PAFB with lunch on Friday, 8 January 2016. Socialize at 11:30 and lunch served at noon. Joann Barney will be telling us about Memory Bears which are made out of military uniforms. Menu is Beef Tips over Pasta or Fruit Plate. Call Nancy Kinsella (242-1365) or Joy Huncharek (258-6874) to make your reservation by Tuesday, January 12th.

Everyone is welcome!

Did you know?

A comprehensive list of all pending veteran-related legislation at the state level is available at:
http://moaafl.org/legislative.aspx

In this Photo, 2015 MOAACC President Robert Watts presents 2014 MOAACC President Jeff Rogers with the 5 Star Banner awarded to the Cape Canaveral Chapter for its efforts in 2014. Master-at-Arms Jack Kerns looks on.

In this Photo, 2015 MOAACC President Robert Watts, 2016 MOAACC President Donn Weaver and RADM Wayne Justice, USCG Ret, present a $5,000 donation from MOAACC’s Good Deeds Foundation for Operation Warmheart at Patrick Air Force Base to Brig Gen Wayne R. Monteith, 45th Space Wing Commander and CMSgt Jason A. Lamoureux, Command Chief.
On The Go Luncheon

Meets the Second Tuesday each Month

Date & Time: 12 January -11:30AM
Cost: Per Individual
Location: Palm Shores Bistro
5060 US Hwy 1
Palm Shores

321-752-5222

For Reservations or additional information:
Please call:
Mary Dunagan at (321) 784-8934
Cut off for reservations, cancellations 8 January

The Intercom is published 12 times annually by the Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America of Alexandria, VA.
Contents of The Intercom articles are the opinions solely of the authors and do not necessarily express the policy or official views of MOAA or the Cape Canaveral Chapter.
Your comments and suggestions are welcome.
Mailing Address:
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Speakers Bureau

Submitted By
1LT Gloria Makowski, USAF (Fmr) & CPT Donn Weaver, USA (Ret)
Recent Talks and Topics

17 November, John Haralson
Eau Gallie Rotary, Boots on the Ground • Laos

Gloria Makowski “Retires” from Speakers Bureau

Effective January 2016, 1st Lt Gloria Makowski USAF (fmr) is leaving her position as the Chairperson and Coordinator of the MOAACC Speakers Bureau. Gloria has served faithfully in this position since 2006. When Gloria first took on the job, she had no SOP or handbook to follow, just a list of potential speakers/volunteers and copies of a couple of requests. In the decade to come, Gloria would organize the Speakers Bureau into a true tour de force – in 2014, 35 members from our MOAACC Speakers List gave over 100 presentations at various military and civic functions, schools, churches, and on the radio. This represented a thirty per cent increase over 2013, and the numbers are expected to be even higher for 2015! Gloria is leaving behind some pretty big shoes to fill – metaphorically speaking of course! The new Chairperson and Coordinator for the MOAACC Speakers Bureau, effective January 2016, is Maj Andrea Eufrazio, USAFR Ret., email: speakers.moaacc@yahoo.com. Andrea reports that she is much more fortunate than Gloria was when she started the job because Gloria has assembled a Coordinator’s Handbook which contains everything she needs to know to get started! The Cape Canaveral Chapter owes Gloria Makowski a big round of applause and a heartfelt “Thank You” for all her efforts. The Intercom staff adds our gratitude for the many articles and photos Gloria has provided over the years - her efforts have been sincerely appreciated!
Thank you Gloria – enjoy your retirement!

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(321) 676-2525

Our New Location:

2627 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Suite 105
Melbourne, FL 32935
(Offering a 25% Discount to Military Personnel)
In October this year you read about a new program focused through the Joe Foss Institute (JFI), MOAACC and the Brevard Veterans Center — Brevard Veterans Back to Class. The initiative began with meetings in July with six veterans interested in a concept and with Audrey Mazzotta, the SE USA regional rep for the JFI. With the help of Matt Susin, a former teacher and focal point for the All American Flag Act, the program has grown now to 17 volunteers. In only three plus months these volunteers have spoken to more than 4200 students of all grade levels in 13 Brevard County and area schools about what the Constitution means, why freedom is not free and their own experiences as veterans of our great country. On Veterans Day week alone, 1454 students were reached. JFI arranges the classroom visits and provides materials to the students as well as our veterans involved in the program. Thanks to all who have joined us and who most often report great classroom experiences!

The word is spreading about the program and we expect more invitations after the Christmas Break. If you are interested and want to learn more about the program and JFI, please contact Donn Weaver at 321-613-2403.

For information about JFI; visit http://www.joefossinstitute.org/
Our speaker this month is one of our newest members, Captain Peter Baxter, USN (Ret). He will tell us about his experience as the Defense & Naval Attache in London -- from 1990-1993. During this time the collapse of the Soviet union, emergence of Eastern Block Countries and the first Gulf war all occurred. His talk will be mostly anecdotal with interactions with other countries’ Attaches and the British.

CAPT Baxter had a long and distinguished career as a naval aviator, In addition to his “best job ever” in the U.K., other significant assignments included command of the Naval Air Station, Keflavik, Iceland where he hosted the Reagan/Gorbachev summit in 1986, and command of Submarine Maritime Patrol Squadron 23. He also served as Executive Assistant to two senior flag officers, and as Executive Officer of the USS Inchon (LPH12). Following retirement, Pete first served as Administrator for two Tennessee State prisons where he made significant improvements in medical care. Later he was Executive Director for the first Public/Private Partnership for the Homeless, Memphis, Tennessee. His program ranked third best in the nation. He also served with the American Cancer Society in Tennessee as Regional Vice President. He holds a Bachelor of Science in industrial Management from Georgia Tech and a Masters equivalent in Government and Foreign Relations from the Naval War College.

Please join us at 9:15 in the 19th Hole at IRCC on 21 January for this very interesting presentation.

We want your input!

Send your comments to: intercom.moaacc@gmail.com
A MOAACC Highlight

A Letter to MOAACC from LT Geoff Reeg, USN, VAW-116

I am writing today, with over six years of Naval Service, to thank the Military Officer Association Cape Canaveral Chapter for your vote of confidence. As a student at the University of Florida, I was fortunate enough to receive the MOACC scholarship consecutively during my Junior and Senior years, 2007 and 2008. I truly believe the financial support provided by the MOACC scholarship directly contributed to my success at the University of Florida and beyond.

Thanks to your generous contributions to the MOACC Scholarship Fund, I was able to focus on my academics and leadership roles in Navy ROTC which lead me to graduating first out of twenty-one other midshipmen, securing an appointment to Navy Flight School. Not having the financial burden of repaying student loans, I was able to focus on flight school and the task at hand.

After completing six weeks of rigorous ground school and water survival at NAS Pensacola, I received orders to NAS Corpus Christi, TX for Primary Flight Training. I learned to fly the T-34C, the Navy’s single engine turboprop trainer. During Primary, I practiced everything from basic aerobatics to instrument flight training.

I completed Primary Flight Training, qualifying for Intermediate Tailhook Training down the road in Kingsville, TX. There, we flew the Navy’s T-45 “Goshawk” jet trainer. During Intermediate, we continued to build our aviation skills, but this time at twice the speed of a T-34C. Intermediate also introduced an extensive formation syllabus that included formation aerobatics.

After being selected for the E-2/C-2 transition, I was accelerated forward to Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) in preparation for Carrier Qualifications (CQ). The Training was designed to tighten up our pattern work and get us to a “good start flying the ball.” When I finally saw the aircraft carrier for the first time while holding overhead at 6000 feet, all I can remember is thinking “How am I going to land on that thing???” Fortunately, all the FCLPs paid off when I qualified on the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69) in September 2011.

After CQ, I detached from Kingsville and headed back to Corpus Christi for Multi-Engine flight training in the T-44C. I quickly found out that Multi-Engine training was all about handling engine failures to get the aircraft safely on deck. I will never forget going around the pattern over and over, standing on the rudder of the good engine until my legs shook with fatigue. Multi-Engine training culminated with my Winging Ceremony at Corpus Christi in Spring of 2012. All of my family came, and my parents proudly pinned on my wings.

After winging, I was ordered to the Fleet Replacement Squadron in Norfolk, VA. There, I learned I would be training to fly the E-2C “Hawkeye” with the upgraded CNS navigation and communication suite. Flying the Hawkeye was a completely new challenge, different from anything I had flown before. Its two engines were ten times as powerful as the T-44C. Controlling the aircraft was the biggest challenge of my life. The studying and practice finally paid off when I qualified aboard the USS Reagan (CVN-76), earning the “Top Hook” award as the student with the highest GPA. “Congratulations Geoff, you’re a qual. Welcome to the fleet!”

After moving across the country to Point Magu, CA, I checked into the VAW-116 “Sun Kings” in June 2014 and began workups. At the end of August, VAW-116 along with the rest of Carrier Air Wing 17 set out aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) on what would be the longest carrier deployment since the Vietnam War, nearly 10 months.

Once we arrived in the North Arabian Gulf, the Air Wing settled into a steady rhythm of Carrier Operations. We typically flew four flights into Iraq every day that lasted nearly five hours. Nearly all of those flights resulted in night recoveries back at the ship and every flight ended in recovering at a critical fuel state. At first night recoveries were terrifying, but it eventually got to a point where they just became a part of life.

The most memorable flight of cruise for me occurred during our transit home. We were overhead the ship one day when my copilot turned to me and asked if I wanted to coordinate with the Deputy Carrier Air Group Commander (DCAG) for a little formation flying. Next thing I knew, DCAG had formed up on my wing and I was flying within 20 feet of his Super Hornet. As we neared overttop the carrier, I snuggled up to keep things tight. Several seconds later, DCAG broke and 20 seconds later, I followed him into the carrier pattern. Everyone on the deck later told me that we looked pretty good coming in together that day.

Since getting back in June, I have been settling back into life ashore. Available flight hours have become sparse and I have been spending a lot more time working as the Aviation Safety Officer in the squadron. I will always be a product of the mentorship, guidance, and help of others along the way, and am here in part because of the Military Officer Association Cape Canaveral Chapter. I am grateful that this generous organization saw fit to aid me in my academic journey, and I am honored to be a part of our country’s Naval Aviation Community. Thank you again for all the continued support back home in Brevard County!
Generous Chapter Members,  

"Here We Go Again"

Paraphrasing one of our favorite American presidents, Ronald Reagan, we are launching our 2016 Scholarship Program. Since there is no off-season for donations, your Scholarship Corporation team is once again calling on you to generously support the 2016 Scholarship Program. A mailing envelope will be included in the March issue of the INTERCOM for your convenience. Ronald Reagan envisioned America as a “shining city on the hill”. That can only occur with dedicated and nourished future leadership. Your MOAACC scholarships provide the cream of our descendants with special aid and incentive to achieve great deeds and preserve our freedom by demonstrating scholarship and citizenship as Juniors, Seniors and Graduate students preparing for varied careers essential to the future of America.

Our mission as your Scholarship Team is to identify and select the very best to receive scholarships at our awards luncheon in July 2016. Leading up to the luncheon we will be reaching out to identify, encourage, assist and select the best of the best. To make this possible we will combine funds from our 2016 fund drive with proceeds from our Permanent Scholarship Fund to award whatever scholarships we can support. We will need to raise at least $30,000 in order to assure ten (10) $3000 scholarships in July. The window for receiving applications for our 2016 Scholarship Program will begin in January and end on June 15, 2016. Please share the information in this article with your eligible descendants and friends who may have eligible descendants. Simply refer them to the chapter's website www.moaacc.org. Then click on the scholarships tab and go directly to the information needed.

Every contribution is important and will be recognized. We hope that in 2016 some of you will finally make the decision to become Named Donors by contributing larger sums as part of your legacy. In doing so you aid the recipients, honor yourself and your family and all of us in the profession of arms. You also “Light the Torch” that illuminates America’s “city on the hill”. With your goodwill we can make 2016 a banner year for our premier five-star chapter. Please contact CDR Courtney Yelle, USN (Ret), Scholarship Donations Committee Chair if you have questions. So please prepare to write that check, and make that commitment to help make America be all that it can be.

Gordon P. (Bat) Masterson, Brig Gen, USAF, Ret.  
Chairman
Welcome Aboard!
New Members

(SMP) = Special Membership Project

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COL Richard L. Bryant, USA Ret (Dinah)
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LTC Richard E. Childs, Jr., USA Ret (Evelyn)
Melbourne, FL 32940
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Maj Robert F. Churnell, USAF Ret
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 (SMP)

LTC Theodore S. Clements, USA Ret (Kam)
Melbourne, FL 32904-7322 (SMP)

Mrs. Ferol Crosbie, AUX
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Lt Col Barry A. Eller, USAF Ret (Sharon)
Merritt Island, FL 32952 (SMP)

LTC Ronald (Ron) D. Frye, USAR Ret (Marian)
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951
Sponsor: Jody Jessen

Col Bernard (Bernie) S. Harland, USA Ret (Lisa)
Satellite Beach, FL 32937-3315 (SMP)
Sponsors: Pat Keane

Mrs. Lura Holland, AUX
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

MAJ Marlin L. Jacobs, USA Ret
Melbourne, FL 32901 (SMP)

CWO2 Roger T. Jaimeyfield, USN Ret (Laura Capozzi)
Titusville, FL 32796 (SMP)

LTC John S. Kane, USA Ret (Patricia)
Melbourne, FL 32940 (SMP)

CPT John P. LaSalle, Jr., USA Ret (Pamela)
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Sponsor: Carlie Rogers

Col Richard S. Mather, USAF Ret (Phyllis)
New Life Member
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Melbourne, FL 32934-7845 (SMP)

CAPT Charles Robert (Bob) Munsey, Jr.,
USN Ret
Cocoa, FL 32927-3416 (SMP)

LT* Carlisle S. Page, USN (Meredith)
Durango, CO 81301
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2LT Michael Paul
(Gold Bar Recipient - Dec 2015)
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Satellite Beach, FL 32937 (SMP)

Maj Paul C. Vitucci, USA Ret (Mitzi)
Titusville, FL 32780 (SMP)

COL Joseph R. Vivaldi, USA Ret
Satellite Beach, FL 32937 (SMP)
The PAFB Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Offers Free Income Tax Return Help

The PAFB Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program will provide free income tax return preparation for all Active Duty, Reserve and Retired Military and civilian personnel of the PAFB community. The PAFB VITA Program is sponsored by the PAFB Legal Office and Project Emeritus. This service is provided by volunteer Tax Counselors who have been trained and certified by the IRS.

The service will be provided at the PAFB Shark Center that is located adjacent to the Chapel in the South Patrick Housing complex (Pelican Coast). The Shark Center is on Harrier Ave. and can be accessed from South Patrick Drive or SR A1A via Shearwater Parkway, (the fourth traffic signal south of Pineda Causeway). The Shark Center is just north of the Chapel and the entrance to the VITA office is on the south side of the Shark Center.

In order for your VITA Tax Counselor to prepare your return the following documentation is required: Picture I.D.; Social Security cards (or Military I.D. with social security number) for tax payer, spouse and all dependents listed on the tax return; Income statements for wages, interest, dividends, pensions, social security, and other (W-2s, and 1099s); expense statements to itemize deductions; a copy of last year’s Tax Return (if available); and the account number and routing number if Direct Deposit of refunds (or to debit payment of any taxes due) is desired.

This service is free, however, there will be a food donation box available for your contribution of canned or boxed food for the local area food programs. The Youth of the PAFB Chapel programs will sort and distribute the food to the local food banks to help those in need.

The Tax Return Preparation Assistance service will be available Monday through Friday from 0900 to 1700 beginning February 1, 2016. Appointments will be taken beginning January 15, 2016 and can be made by calling 321-494-4718. Leave your name and phone number and someone will return your call.

April 18, 2016
A Key Date for Taxes

Individual Tax Returns Due for Tax Year 2015.
If you haven’t applied for an extension, e-file or postmark your individual tax returns by midnight April 18, 2016.

Individual Tax Return Extension Form Due for Tax Year 2015.
Need more time to prepare your tax return? File your request for a tax extension by April 18 to push your deadline back to October 17, 2016.

1st Quarter 2016 Estimated Tax Payment Due.
If you are self-employed or have other first-quarter income that requires you to pay quarterly estimated taxes, get your Form 1040-ES postmarked by April 18, 2016.

Last Day to make a 2015 IRA Contribution.
If you haven’t already funded your retirement account for 2015, do so by April 18, 2016. That’s the deadline for a contribution to a traditional IRA, deductible or not, and a Roth IRA. However, if you have a Keogh or SEP and you get a filing extension to October 17, 2016, you can wait until then to put 2015 money into those accounts.
Suffer the Little Children
by Robert Faulkender

The third graders filed out of lecture hall calling out “thank you’s” and giving me high-fives. They had just experienced my Veterans Day presentation about the Poppies of Flanders Field. A faculty member of St. Luke’s Lutheran School, Ben Skelton, contacted the Joe Foss Institute requesting a Veteran to come meet his kids. The honor fell to me.

For the older grades I prepared a twenty minute power point presentation about the American Advisory effort in Vietnam. The younger grades received an alternate presentation about Flanders Fields. However, since the VFW supplied me with a passel of paper poppies, everyone got into the Armistice Day story.

You have to love little kids. They would have asked questions all day had their teachers not called an end. And am I glad the teachers did. A little girl in one session asked why the war to end all wars didn't end all wars. Out of the mouths of babes... saved by the bell.

As children moseyed by, smiling and making this old soldier feel welcome, a very serious little boy offered his hand to me and I reached out to shake it. Instead he put a quarter and a dime into my palm.

I asked him where he found the money. He said, “In my pocket.”
I said, “Well, put it back.”
“No, It's for you.”

It’s not every day you know exactly what you are worth. I accepted graciously. Later, I placed my blessings in the church collection plate.

Driving home that afternoon felt different. Often, at the end of a day, the world news is so depressing that evening brings deep concern for our future. But today was special. The children expressed such freshness and joy that they renewed my hope for tomorrow.
The title for the top WWII female icon, no doubt, goes to Rosie the Riveter. Rosie represented the American women who took up work in the factories in order to fill the vacancies left by the men enrolled in the service. The continued demands of manufacturing munitions and war supplies during WWII made women’s role crucial. Rosie not only represented feminism, but also women’s economic power. Once the war was over, however, it was anticipated that these women would return to their housework.

The government used various means to encourage women to join the work forces. However, much of it was directed at the husbands who seemed reluctant to support their wife’s employment. Rosie the Riveter’s journey began with a song title. The song, written by Redd Evans and John Loeb, used a fictitious character Rosie to represent women doing their part to assist the war efforts at home - despite their tireless task of being assembly line workers.

As the song gained popularity, Rose Will Monroe, a woman working as a riveter during WWII, was given the opportunity to star in a film about the war efforts at home. Monroe seemed the closest fit to the persona of the woman described in the song “Rosie the Riveter.” Her appearance in the film began her claim to fame as what could possibly be described as the most recognized icon of the WWII era. She went on to appear in additional films and on posters in an effort to encourage women to work outside the home in support of the war. Her involvement is said to have had a dramatic impact on the number of women in the work force - possibly as high as a 57 percent increase. In her 50’s, Monroe realized a life-long dream of piloting a plane. She had a passion for flying and eventually received her pilot’s license. In 1978, at age 58, Monroe almost died when she crashed her plane during takeoff. The accident left her impaired. In 1997, Rose Will Monroe died at home peacefully in 1997 at age 77.
Points To Ponder
Submitted By CH Lt Col Thomas Unrath, USAF (Ret)

Every society, culture and sub-culture has rituals for beginnings and endings. These can be anything from birthday celebrations to funerals (or “celebration of life” gatherings if you wish.) Depending on your cultural roots you might celebrate the coming of a new year with a party or a prayer service spanning the final hours of Dec 31 through the early hours of Jan 1. Perhaps you might celebrate the Chinese New Year. Your ritual celebration could include the blowing of “shofar” at Rosh Hashanah. How many of you recall the “ritual” of scrambling to produce an “unfunded” list as the fiscal year end came near? As I write this we are in the season of Advent, the beginning of the Christian liturgical calendar.

Some of these beginning or ending times are tied to a specific event and date, a birthday perhaps or the celebration of a nation’s Independence Day. Others are governed by a calendar other than the Gregorian calendar most of our western cultures use, a lunar or astronomical calendar for instance. The Chinese, Jewish and Islamic calendars follow variations of these methods. Thus it can seem rather arbitrary to designate January 1 as such a significant holiday, but we seem to be wired for some such a celebration to mark a new beginning. Perhaps we do so because we must acknowledge the advance of days as we progress through life. I recently ran across the following in “Leaves of Gold” edited by Clyde Francis Lytle, Published by the Coslett Publishing Company.

Time – The days of the years of our pilgrimage are threescore years and ten. The generations crowd each other off the stage of time in swift succession. The sand runs out in the hour glass. Time is only the tick of the second hand in the clock of the ages. Some morning the senses will fail to resume business. Every door will be locked, every shutter drawn. Eye, ear, and hand will fail to respond. There will no longer be any medium by which to enter the temporal. An invisible hand has written “finis” across another human career, and people say “the man is dead.” He has not ceased to be: he has merely finished with time. Anonymous

For some of us, that finish is nearer than for others, but none knows for certain. So we begin 2016. As our time passes, mark the days with gratitude for the blessings you have. Note that we came into this world with nothing more than a dependence on others. For a lifetime we have moved in and out of states of dependence and having others depend on us. All are occasions to give thanks and look forward to what lies ahead. Celebrate the time before you and honor what is behind. It is what has made you who you are.

God Bless You in 2016!

CORRECTION

In the December Issue of the Intercom, the King Center in Melbourne was inadvertently omitted from the list of donors for the Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament. We regret the omission and sincerely thank the King Center for their generous donation.

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MOAACC Member Lt Gen William Welser III, USAF Ret, a command pilot who has logged more than 3,500 hours in the C-5 Galaxy, C-141 Starlifter and more than 22 other aircraft, was the guest speaker at the Veterans Day Celebration at the Dover Air Force Base Air Mobility Command Museum. In 2001, Lt Gen Welser served as the Operations and Logistics Director for U.S. Transportation Command and led transportation operations supporting the U.S. response to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Lt Gen Welser felt there is a sense of disconnect between the younger generation regarding Veterans Day.

“We have a lot of young men and women that serve in JROTC programs and scouts, but there is a small percentage of our country that don’t have a better understanding of the sacrifices that were made for them to have the freedoms they have today,” he said.

“When you think about it, 16.1 million people went to World War II and it was talked about in every family, and now the Air Force is half the size it was when I was in active duty.

There are fewer parents and grandparents that are telling their children about the active duty or the military and I think that’s the disconnect we have.”

MOAACC Speakers Bureau Supports Veterans Day Programs at Local Assisted Living Facilities

The MOAACC Speakers Bureau participated in Veterans Day Recognition Ceremonies in more than a dozen senior and assisted living facilities in the local area. On 5 November at Benton House in Titusville, Col David L. Hosley, USAF Ret represented MOAACC for a very special ceremony. VITAS coordinated the activity and in addition to Col Hosley's speech, the ceremony included the Army Junior ROTC Color Guard to post the colors, cadets from the Civil Air Patrol to hand out certificates, and a bugle player for Taps. In the accompanying photos we see Col Hosley with Melissa Lewis of VITAS and a group shot showing some of the Benton House resident veterans and participating groups. Col Hosley reports that the large room was full and the audience was responsive.

Reports from other ceremonies in the local area were similarly positive. Chaplain (MAJ) William P. Adams, USA Ret, who participated in ceremonies at Titusville Health and Rehabilitation and at Sonata, reported that VITAS had coordinated a great program and that he personally felt honored to be able to take part and spend some time with the resident veterans.

Photos from Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center.
Chapter Membership $20

Active Duty/Drilling Reserve:
First Year - No Cost

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Life Membership payable over three consecutive months. Make check payable to MOAACC or pay online at MOAACC.org. Dues and Fees include subscription to THE INTERCOM.

The Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
P.O. Box 254186, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-4186
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Please mail to above address or register online at moaacc.org

Name  [ ] New Chapter Annual  [ ] New Chapter Life  [ ] Change of Information
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Check appropriate boxes:
- [ ] Retired  [ ] Active Duty  [ ] Widow(er)  [ ] Spouse of Member
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Sponsor’s Name

Luncheon Reservation Form  (At Ease Club, IRCC) (11:30 AM)
Reservations must be made by completing this form and mailing it to MOAACC, P.O. Box 254186, Patrick AFB, FL 32925 or RSVP/pay-on-line at moaacc.org or by calling Ruth Oblack at 453-2947 or by emailing to oblackruth@aol.com.

Luncheon Cost: $16 per person.
How many?  [ ] Check Enclosed $  [ ] Pay at the door

Regular Lunch  [ ] Light Lunch  [ ] Singles Table

Name  (Print Please)

Reservations must be received no later than Thursday prior to date of Luncheon. Cancellations will be accepted through Thursday prior to luncheon date by calling Joe/Ruth Oblack (453-2947).

LUNCH - Jan 19, 2016
Held 3rd Tues. each month following chapter board meeting.
Colony Hall, IRCC (11:30 AM)
Program: Cape Canaveral National VA Cemetery
Menu: Regular: Soup of the Day, Ham w/Raisin Sauce, Baked Sweet Potatoes & Vegetable
       Light: Soup of the Day, Chicken Caesar Salad
       Program: Cape Canaveral National VA Cemetery
Menu: Regular: Soup of the Day, Ham w/Raisin Sauce, Baked Sweet Potatoes & Vegetable
       Light: Soup of the Day, Chicken Caesar Salad
       How many?  [ ] Check Enclosed $  [ ] Pay at the door

Regular Lunch  [ ] Light Lunch  [ ] Singles Table

Name  (Print Please)

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