



One Powerful Voice.

Chapter Awards

Web Site



Newsletter



Right to left: Capt Tim Holme, Col Tom Green, LtCol Marge Blunk, Radm Mac McLeod, Cdr Bob Truax, Emmy Hubbartt, and Cdr Ron Resare.

Citrus County Chapter

**Leading by Example - -
Drawing on the Past, Serving the Present
and Preparing for the Future**

Volume 24, Issue 5

January 2011



CAPT Thomas T. Holme, Jr.
USN (Ret)
Captain's Call

Happy New Year to everyone! It's hard to believe that, when you receive this, 2011 will be upon us. The last major event of our MOAA year, our Installation Dinner, was a great success. Thank you to all who came and contributed, especially to Gary Runyon for his usual exacting management of all details (including the outrageous "death by chocolate" cake) and to Sharon Richie-Melvan for arranging for LtGen Milligan to be our installation officer and guest speaker. On the way home, Joy commented on how effective and enjoyable his presentation was. I couldn't agree more.

.From my vantage point it's been a great year for our Chapter and MOAA as a whole. We have enjoyed great camaraderie with our fellow members and multiple opportunities to interact with and serve our adopted community. I say "adopted" because I suspect most of us are here in West-Central Florida by choice. I would be interested in discovering how many of us are here because we chose to return to our roots. I suspect that most of us, if not all, simply made a conscious decision to come here to pursue a second career or for retirement. I for one am very glad to have made that decision.

We are truly part of the community. Many of us are also active in not just with MOAA but also with our church, the schools, and other civic and volunteer organizations. I believe that makes our chapter a more effective organization. The coming year will provide us with yet other opportunities to serve. I have already been approached with requests for us to support additional activities in the community. I look forward to discussing them with all of you at our February meeting.

January is the annual potluck luncheon hosted by the Women of MOAA instead of our regular monthly business meeting and lunch. This is always a big hit and will, of course, be so this year too. Check elsewhere in this month's newsletter for details about the luncheon.

At the end of January, the 28th and 29th, I will attend the annual Presidents' Winter Meeting of the Florida Council of Chapters. Sharon, as a National Board Member, is also going to attend. This will be a great opportunity for us to share ideas with other chapters and bring those ideas back to share with you.

(Captain's Call continued on Page 3)

2011 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2010

President

CAPT Thomas T. Holme, Jr., USN (Ret)
(352) 597-3884
E-mail: tholme@tampabay.rr.com

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

LCDR Gary E Runyon, USN (Ret)
(352) 563-5727
E-mail: laserger@infionline.net

Treasurer

COL Thomas E. Green, USA (Ret)
(352) 489-7304
E-mail: gtapgreen@aol.com

Board of Directors

RADM Carlton J. McLeod, USN (Ret)
LTC Marge Blunk, AUS (Ret)
CDR Robert C. Truax, USN (Ret)
CDR Richard H. Lee, USN (Ret)
CDR Ronald A. Resare, USN (Ret)
Mrs. Emma A. Hubbart, Aux Member

Legislative Officer

CAPT Thomas T. Holme, Jr., USN (Ret)
(352) 597-3884
E-mail: tholme@tampabay.rr.com

Public Affairs Officer

Mrs. Agnes Kearns
(352) 344-8368
E-mail: wkearns@tampabay.rr.com

Chaplain

CPT Frederick Ohsiek, USAR (Ret)
(352) 746-7131
Email: foshiek@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Patricia (Pat) Colbert
(352) 613-3903
E-mail: pachanged@yahoo.com

Web Master

Mr. Michael D. Melvan
(352) 637-1301
Email:
webwizard@citruscountymoaa.org

WOMEN OF MOAA OFFICERS

President

Mrs. Louise Maroc Hogberg
(352) 637-5898
E-mail: Aussie90@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Mrs. Cynthia Resare
(352) 344-3123
E-mail: cyntharesare@aol.com

The Military Officers Association of America, Citrus County Chapter annual Installation Dinner convened at 18:30, December 2, 2010 at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club, in Hernando, Florida. President Thomas T. Holme presiding. There were 48 in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, the wine and cheese bar opened at 17:30. At that time, various members assembled and mingled.

This chapter's formal ceremonial table, with bunting, rear banner and chapter colors was assembled in the front center of the room. There was a decorated wine and cheese table with a carved melon. The traditional chocolate cake was displayed at the table along with cut pieces of apple pie.

At precisely 18:30 President Tim Holme called the Installation Dinner to order.

MOAA Chaplain, The Reverend Frederick C.Ohsiek II gave the invocation and Chester Tricca led in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Tim recognized our guests LGEN Robert Milligan USMC (Ret), Marge Blunk's sister Jan Torppa (escorted by Bob Truax), Clarel Charles' friends Greta and Jean Isaac, and newly elected Citrus County Commissioner J J Kenney and his wife Brenda.

Tim welcomed the following Auxiliary members:

1. Auxiliary member, and member Board of Directors Emmy Hubbart
2. Auxiliary President Louise Maroc Hogburg
3. Auxiliary Vice President Cynthia Resare Esq.

Tim then recognized the following TROA/MOAA charter members:

1. Jud and Barbara Lincoln: Jud is our most senior former president of MOAA/TROA who is still living. He celebrated his 90th birthday in September.
3. Tom and Joyce Marr

Tim noted that Agnes Kearns is recovering from successful surgery. He said that Newsletter Editor, Pat Colbert is still recovering from her automobile accident. He noted that because of the accident, the delivery times for upcoming newsletters might be delayed slightly in the immediate future until Pat recovers.

Tim suspended the Treasurer's report and the Secretary's report.

Tim listed some of our chapter's achievements during the past year. In January, we had the successful Potluck dinner at the Ladies Club. Later in the spring, we attended a very successful Dinner Theatre in Hudson. We awarded our eleventh Bud Wise Scholarship in May. During the summer, we held our Summer Time Blues luncheon where we honored former president, Bob Green on his 100th birthday. We had an extremely nice fall picnic at Admiral McLeod's home. Again this year, our MOAA chapter pulled its own weight, during Veterans Appreciation Week as it participated vigorously in the various events. This year, we had a stunning 196 classrooms in the Veterans in the Classroom program and we again had a majority of the parade marshals in the Veterans Day parade.

At 18:40, Tim suspended the remainder of the formal meeting, so that the members could dine on either London broil or broiled Tilapia with ice cream, chocolate cake and apple pie for dessert.

At 19:30, the meeting was recalled to order for the installation ceremony.

The first order of business was to recognize the services and efforts of our former president, Sharon Melvan-Richie. Sharon resigned as president in February after serving more than two years. She was formally presented with a MOAA Chapter Past President's Plaque.

While at the podium, Sharon introduced her personal guest and our evening's guest speaker, LGEN Robert F. Milligan USMC (Ret). Sharon noted that Retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Robert F. Milligan is Interim Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. He was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist and the Cabinet on August 26, 2010 to succeed the late LeRoy Collins Jr. He directs a state agency responsible for assisting Florida's more than 1.6 million veterans, their families and survivors in improving their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy, education and long term health services.

Milligan's Marine Corps career culminated as Commanding General of Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific, and Marine Corps Bases, Pacific, with headquarters in Hawaii. General Milligan was responsible for two

(Meeting Minutes continued on Page 3)

(Captain's Call from Page 3)

On the 13 February we make our annual pilgrimage to the Show Palace Dinner Theater in Hudson. Always great entertainment, this year it's "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". This musical first opened on Broadway in October of 1961. The musical, which was made into a successful movie, is going to open a second revival on Broadway in March of this year starring Daniel Radcliffe (well known to many of us as Harry Potter ☺). It should be great fun and I hope you all will join Joy and me.

Remember that this year's Florida Council of Chapters Convention will be at sea! The Cape Canaveral Chapter is hosting the convention onboard the Royal Caribbean Freedom of the Seas from 8 to 15 May. Sailing round trip from Port Canaveral, the first two days will be the actual convention and the balance of the cruise is vacation! The ship will visit Cococay, Bahamas, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas and Philipsburg, St. Maarten. It should be great fun. Many of us have already made reservations. Check elsewhere in this month's newsletter for how to join us.

Tim

(Meeting Minutes continued from Page 3)

thirds of the operating forces of the Marine Corps, consisting of 92,000 Marines and sailors serving at 18 bases and stations and aboard ships at sea, stretching from the continental United States to the far reaches of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. He retired in 1991.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Rochester. He also studied economics at the doctoral level at the University of Maryland. General Milligan was elected to a four-year term as Comptroller of Florida in 1994 and re-elected to a second term in 1998. As Florida's Comptroller, Milligan was the state's Chief Financial Officer, serving as the watchdog over taxpayers' money, head of the Department of Banking and Finance and was a member of the Florida Cabinet.

Most recently, he served as the interim director of the State Board of Administration and as chairman of the Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc. General Milligan serves on the Executive Board of the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

General Milligan noted that as an active duty officer, he controlled 92,000 people. He joked that once he retired in the Florida panhandle that the 92,000 number was suddenly reduced to one person, his wife. That number was soon reduced to zero as his wife very quickly assumed command, control and responsibility for all his activities after his retirement.

Once in retirement, he met with the Republican party in 1994 to seek the office of Florida Comptroller. The Republicans told him that he needed to personally raise \$100,000.00 dollars to be a viable candidate. After two months, he had only raised \$5,000.00 dollars. His wife took over as campaign manager. The money was raised and he was elected. He noted that the

present "Election Matching Funds" program helped him raise the required campaign monies. He recommends the matching funds program as a method of allowing more qualified candidates to run for office.

As for being appointed to fill Leroy Collin's shoes as temporary director of the Florida Veterans Affairs, he commented that these were very big shoes to fill. He thanked all veterans for their services.

General Milligan then began the Installation Ceremony.

The secretary called the following officers to assemble front and center:

President: CAPT Thomas T. Holme USN (Ret)
Secretary: LCDR Gary E Runyon USN (Ret)
Treasurer: COL Tom Green USA (Ret)

Member of Board of Directors beginning first year of new term:

RADM Carlton McLeod USN (Ret)
CDR Robert Truax USN (Ret)
COL Marge Blunk USA (Ret)

Member of Board of Directors beginning second year of current term:

CDR Richard H. Lee USN (Ret)
CDR Ronald A. Resare USN (Ret)
Mrs. Emmy Hubbartt AUX

Legislative Officer: CAPT Tim Holme USN (Ret)
Chaplain: Rev. Frederick C. Ohsiek II
Newsletter Editor: Captain Pat Colbert USA (absent)
Web Master: Mr Michael Melvan
Public Affairs Officer: Mrs Agnes Kearns AUX (absent)

General Milligan gave the oath of office to the assemble officers. The newly installed officers then took their seats.

President Tim Holme thanked General Milligan for his remarks and for installing the officers.

Tim noted that 40-60 percent of all service members returning home from active duty in the current Middle East War cannot find a job. This is unsatisfactory and Tim made a personal appeal during a recent interview on the WYKE television station.

MOAA Women's president Louise Maroc Hogberg then presented a \$100.00 dollar check from MOAA Women to Admiral McLeod who represents the Citrus County Veteran's Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:17.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary E Runyon
Secretary



Secretary's Notes

LCDR Gary Runyon, USN (Ret)

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and got to spend time with your families. It certainly was a nice Installation Dinner where we installed our current operating officers in their new terms. Tim clicked off quite a list of our chapter's accomplishments during 2010. I want to thank all the chapter members who worked extra hard to make all these accomplishments possible.

Some of you may have noticed that we had a new four-star streamer on the ceremonial table at the Installation Dinner. Our chapter won a four star excellence award for 2010. This makes three years in a row that our chapter has earned either a four or five star award. Looks like our chapter has developed a nice habit of winning these awards.

As I begin my new and final two year term as secretary, I will be working hard to make this my best term ever. Hopefully, we can continue to win these awards and streamers.

Our newsletter editor, Pat Colbert, continues to recover from her automobile accident. Also former president, Bob Truax, is out of the hospital and is recovering from pneumonia. I wish him a speedy recovery. Agnes Kearns is recovering from surgery too. Emmy Hubbartt is recovering from a knee replacement. Several of our chapter members are standing-by for elective surgery. I wish everybody a full recovery.

Next up is our joint luncheon at the Inverness Ladies Club on January 13. This is a general meeting and please note that it takes place on the second Thursday of the month as opposed to the first Thursday. We do it this way since the first week after New Year's day is cluttered with parties, bowl games and the like. This is a potluck luncheon, so it should be a real treat. Louise Maroc Hogberg and the MOAA Women put a lot of work into this presentation, so let's all go out and support them.

Mark your calendars in mid-February for this year's MOAA Dinner Theatre. On Thursday, February 17, 2011, MOAA members will assemble at the Show Palace Dinner Theater in Hudson, for a matinee performance of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". Louise has reserved some great seats for us.

The dues have been coming in nicely. However, some of you have yet to send them it. So all of you who get the electronic newsletter, be sure to read the dues tickler in the cover email. And for those who get the USPS version of the newsletter, be sure to watch whether or not you get a red or black mailing label.

See you all at the January 13 Potluck luncheon.



Current President Tim Holme presenting Past President Sharon Melvan-Richie with her past president's plaque

2011 DUES REMINDER

All members were notified by mail or electronically about their chapter membership annual dues. According to our secretary, many members have already met this obligation. If you have not paid your dues yet, now is the time to take care of this matter.

In addition to paying your dues, please remember that we are working to grow our chapter individually and MOAA nationally. We need everyone committed to this goal for 2011.

Also, we would like to take the time to again **welcome our newest members to MOAA** and encourage them to find their niche in the organization's programming.



*Happy New
Year to
Everyone and
Again, Welcome
to Our Newest
MOAA Members*

Update: MOAA Convention Cruise, May 8-15, 2011



It is time to begin thinking about your plans for going to the convention as the year is winding down. As part of those plans the Pentagon Federal Credit Union is working to help make the cruise even more affordable.

PenFed members who have booked or are planning to book cabins on the convention cruise can receive 5% cash back. For details go to <http://www.moaafl.org/Convention/PenFedCashBack.htm> These savings apply to chapter members using their Platinum Cash Rewards Card and making payments to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines prior to December 31, 2010.

MOAA Exclusive Shore Excursion
(Not Available to Any Other Ship's Guests)

St. Maarten - Lobster and Landscapes

Setting out from the cruise pier in your air conditioned vehicle, your driver will give you some general information about the island and its natural beauty, but today's program focuses on artistic beauty.

You will visit three different artists during your tour. One of the galleries you will visit is the Alexandre Minguet Art Gallery, which is now managed by the daughter of the late artist. The gallery carries original watercolors, paintings, lithographs, reproductions, postcards and posters by the artist that depict colorful landscapes, marine scenes, local villages and tropical flowers.

Visit one of the region's most respected artists, Sir Roland Richardson, referred to as the —Father of Caribbean Impressionism. From a French Caribbean family that dates back to the 1700's, Mr. Richardson has recorded his culture for more than forty years with his paintbrush and palette. His contributions to the realm of contemporary Plein Air Impressionism are part of art curriculum's around the world. His works in oil, watercolor, pastel, charcoal and extensive fine print-making in etching, engraving, aquatint, mezzotint, woodcut and dry point have been featured in more than 100 one-man and group shows in museums, and fine art galleries

During your time on the Dutch side, you will travel to the village of Friar's Bay where you will visit the home of Ruby Bute. To Ruby painting has always been her life and joy. Through her watercolors, oils, acrylics and pastels, you can look deep into St.

Martin's culture and the natural beauty of her island and its people.

After your morning of art, you will drive to Oyster Pond where a grilled lobster lunch awaits you beachside. Enjoy fresh lobster meat grilled over a fire along with rice and coleslaw. A complimentary beer, soda or rum punch accompanies your meal. On your ride back to the pier, you will have the option of ending your tour downtown in Philipsburg's shopping area or ending back at the ships pier. Guests departing downtown will need to arrange their own transportation back to the cruise pier at their own expense via taxi, water taxi or walking.

Please note: There are some inclines/steps required to access the galleries. Due to the intimate size of the galleries visited, wheelchairs cannot be accommodated. Itinerary and duration may vary depending on traffic. Price \$80 per person.

Coming Soon: Matinee Performance

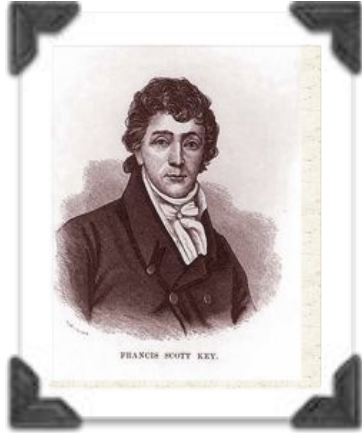


Feb. 17, 2011
1200 hours

It is time to buy your tickets for the upcoming matinee performance for our trip to Hudson, Florida to see the matinee performance, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". Although we will be going on February 17, 2011 the show begins on January 7, 2011 and continues through February 27, 2011. This additional knowledge about the show may give you the opportunity to invite family and friends to go and see the show.

According to the current theater review from the Show Palace, this show is about "Power, sex, ambition, greed... it's just another day at the office." In the grand tradition of The Producers and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum comes one of the most delightfully irreverent musicals of all time. A satire of big business and all it holds sacred, How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying follows the rise of J. Pierrepont Finch, who uses a little handbook to climb the corporate ladder from lowly window washer to high-powered executive, tackling such familiar but potent dangers as the aggressively compliant company man, the boss' whiny, nepotistic nephew, the office party, backstabbing co-workers, caffeine addiction and, of course, true love. With music by the composer of Guys and Dolls comes a score filled with classics I Believe in You, Been a Long Day, Rosemary, The Company Way and the rousing show stopper Brotherhood of Man.

The Making of The National Anthem



In 1813 the commander of Ft. McHenry asked for a flag so big that "the British would have no trouble seeing it from a distance." He asked Mary Young Pickersgill to make the flag for him. Her thirteen year old daughter Caroline helped her. She used 400 yards of fine wool. They cut 15 stars that were two feet across. There were 8 red and 7 white stripes. The stripes were each two feet wide. When it was finished it measured 30 by 42 feet and cost \$405.90.

During this time Francis Scott Key was a lawyer in Georgetown, just a few miles from Washington D.C. He and his wife Mary had 6 sons and 5 daughters.

In 1814, the British captured Washington and set the Capitol on fire. President James Madison and his wife Dolley had to leave the White House and run to a safer place.

After this attack, the Americans knew that Baltimore would be attacked next. The British had captured Mr. Key's friend. His name was William Beanes and he was a doctor. Key and another man set out to try to save Dr. Beanes' life. They told the British the doctor had helped to save British soldiers who had been wounded. They agreed to free him, but they wouldn't let them leave because the three men had overheard the British making plans to attack. So they were placed under guard on a British ship.

It was from this ship Francis Scott Key watched the bombing of Ft. McHenry. There was a lot of smoke and haze, but when daylight came, he could see the flag was still waving.

He was so inspired he began to write a poem on the back of a letter he had in his pocket. He later finished the poem and showed it to his brother-in-law who took it to a printer and had copies made of it. Two of these copies survive today.

Newspapers started printing it and people began

singing it to a familiar tune. The Star Spangled Banner was adopted as our national anthem on March 3, 1931.

The flag which flew over Ft. McHenry is now at the Smithsonian in the Museum of American History. The flag is very fragile and they keep a curtain in front of it to protect it from the light and dust. They show the flag for a few moments once every hour when the museum is open to the public. The rendition of the story as told on this you tube site.

Did you know this history about our national anthem? Well, at a time when we are still at war, this is a great time to reflect on what why our national anthem was written and to honor our troops fighting and those that have fallen for the right for us to be free. This is truly worth watching and remembering freedom is not free, but it takes sacrifice.

See: http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Iwa-LSVqA1M&vq=medium



FINAL NOTICE

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, OUR PRESIDENT HAS CHALLENGED US TO SUBMIT ENTRIES FOR A NEWSLETTER TITLE.

THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY A FEW ENTRIES. AS EDITOR, I WILL COMPILE THE FINAL LIST FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY PLEASE DO SO BY OUR POTLUCK ON JANUARY 13, 2011, SO I CAN GET A BALLOT SHEET TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE WINNING ENTRY WILL BE USED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

IN MEMORIAM

Nellie "Sue" Ralls Spouse of
COL Dan H. Ralls (Ret)
December 17, 2010



There is an on-line guest book
which may be found at:
www.chronicleonline.com
to leave a message for the family.

"Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Congress recently voted to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell. It is the policy that prohibits members of the gay community from serving openly in the military. The Department of Defense will now proceed with the planning necessary to carry out this change. Repeal will take effect once the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certify that implementation of the new policies and regulations is consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting, and retention of the Armed Forces.

The Department of Defense recently conducted a comprehensive, nine-month study on the effects of repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The study showed that the effects of repeal on military readiness, effectiveness, morale, recruiting, retention, and family readiness are low--especially if the policy change is implemented after appropriate measure have been taken to prepare the force.

Opinions regarding this issue can be forwarded to your Senator or Congressional Representative as we transition into some new candidates in congress.

Must-Do Tips to Keep New Year's Resolutions

[Featured in USAA Magazine](#) (See entire article on-line)

Research reveals that most of us don't stick to our New Year's resolutions, but a new strategy can spell success.

If you're planning to make a New Year's resolution, chances are pretty good it will have something to do with either your weight (and shedding it) or your money (and saving it).

During the past few years, survey after survey has ranked these resolutions No. 2 and No. 1. Or sometimes No. 1 and No. 2. Interestingly, many of the same tactics that can help you maintain your diet-and-exercise resolutions are the ones that can help you reach your financial goals. Apply the techniques that follow and you may find you can actually succeed at both. One, Set small goals. You Need a Goal — and Benchmarks Two, work with a buddy. Both seem to be effective.



MOAA/VETERAN SCAM

SCAM 1:

MOAA members should beware of a phone scam asking for contributions to "your local MOAA Chapter." One of our MOAA of Citrus County Chapter members received this bogus telephone solicitation on December 8, 2010.

During the phone call, the caller identifies himself by name. He then said, "I am from your local MOAA Chapter and I am soliciting your support."

If you receive such a call, just hang up and report it to me via email so I can document it. This issue has been reported to MOAA National headquarters and to the president of MOAA Florida Council of Chapters.

Our chapter has never solicited money via telephone calls. As far as I can recall, our only requests for donations have been made at our meetings as well as in the various comments and coupons in our official chapter newsletter.

So, be on the alert.

Gary E Runyon
Secretary
MOAA of Citrus County

SCAM 2:

WARNING TO VETERANS

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.
<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Legislation News for January



Tim Holme

CAPT, USNavy (Ret)

**Why has government been instituted at all?
Because the passions of man will not
conform to the dictates of reason and justice
without restraint.**

– Alexander Hamilton

It's probably more than fair to say that, no matter where you sit on the political spectrum, the 111th Congress has been a disappointment. Whether refusing to compromise on essential legislation or complaining about legislation that was the result of compromise, there is more than enough responsibility to be shared. I actually enjoy politics. It holds a certain fascination for me. I have studied it for years. Yet, this year more than most, that has been difficult to admit. Years ago the federal fiscal year was changed from 1 July to 1 October, so that government would have enough time to complete essential legislation without resorting to continuing resolutions to keep government working. It seems as though each year it gets worse. This year, it wasn't until Wednesday the 22nd of December that Congress managed to get a defense authorization bill on the way to the President for signature. Also, they still had to resort to a continuing resolution (good until March 4th) to keep the government from shutting down.

Why? Congress was unwilling to make important decisions prior to the November elections for fear of influencing voters. And, following the election, the lame duck session appeared more interested in passing legislation the voters had already demonstrated that they didn't want. We can only hope that the 112th will

be more amenable to working for reasonable compromise. It's important to remember that all pending legislation, not passed by the 111th Congress, is history. It must be reintroduced in the 112th Congress and begin its travels through committee, etc. before it can face a vote on the floor.

Much remains undone:

- There needs to be a permanent "doc fix" to change the formula for Medicare/Tricare reimbursement.
- There needs to be a long-range plan that will preserve the financial integrity of Social Security. This needs to address both contribution salary cap and full retirement age.
- Don't Ask-Don't Tell is not yet solved. Congress still needs to address changes to the UCMJ and the difficult issues related to housing and compensation for service members with domestic partners.
- It would be helpful if legislation were introduced regarding military pay (active duty and retired) and the CPI. It's tiresome watching the debate over whether military pay should be raised more or less than the CPI. It's downright scary to hear some members of Congress argue against any CPI raises for retired pay.

2011 promises to be an interesting year for politics junkies. A divided Congress should be good for compromise and getting the People's work done on time. We'll see.
have to make our collective voices heard often and clearly.

2010 Installation Dinner and Women's Christmas Party Photos



Chapter Contact Information

(Mail) P.O. Box 995
Inverness, FL 34451

(Phone) (352) 563-5727

(Email) Laserge@infionline.net

(Web Address)
<http://citruscountymoaa.org>

Citrus County Veterans, Service Office

2804 W. Marc Knighton Ct., Suite B140
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Phone: (352) 527-5915
Fax: (352) 527-5916

Citrus County Veterans Foundation
Post Office Box 2065
Lecanto, Florida 34460

Chapter Calendar of Upcoming,

Thursday, January 13, 2011, at 1200 hours, Joint Luncheon at the Inverness Women's Club. Potluck with a donation.

Thursday, February 3, 2011, at 1130 hours at the Emperor's Garden, 1314 Highway 41N., Next door to the Inverness Post Office.

Thursday, February 17, 2011, Front row seating to see "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying", at the Show Palace Dinner Theater, Hudson, FL.

May 8-15 2011, Florida Council of Chapters Convention at Sea Cruise

At the end of the day, the women's Christmas party at Van Der Valk Restaurant in Inverness was an absolute success. The Chinese Auction ended with our oldest member, getting just what she wanted and Joann Brown getting Frosty the Snowman, just as she wanted. Our webmaster, Michael Melvan passed by just before the auction, but we could not convince him to stay and enjoy lunch with us. HE REALLY MISSED OUT ON A TREAT. We even had a chance to see Santa Claus that day. We are looking forward to next year already.

LUNCHEON
MOAA



Joint Potluck Luncheon **at**

Inverness Women's Club
1715 Forest Drive, Inverness, FL 34453
Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 1200 hours
(Directly across the street from
Whispering Pines Park)

RSVP: Louise: Aussie90@tampabay.rr.com
352 637-5898

