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Newsletter



seemed to me that everyone enjoyed the show just as much as I did. This is definitely an annual tradition worth continuing.

Last week I received an email from Congressman Rich Nugent's office announcing that he is going to continue his predecessor's practice of holding an annual Veteran's Fair. It will be Saturday, March 26th from 1000 to 1300 at Nature Coast High School in Hernando County (same venue as last year). I have signed us up and need 2 or 3 volunteers to join me in manning the table. I did it last year with Hank and Rita Butler and it was a lot of fun. Let me know if you are interested.



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

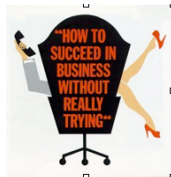
Volume 24, Issue 7

March 2011

Citrus County Chapter

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

It sometimes feels as though time is accelerating. We no sooner meet together for our monthly luncheon and we're on the verge of meeting again. I know that February is a short month, but it's not that short. ©. It was just last week that we gathered for our annual outing to the Palace Grand Dinner Theater in Hudson. It was a super turnout with 35 of our members and friends signing on for the presentation of How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. The seats were great (right down front) and the buffet was superb. It



The Guest speaker for our luncheon meeting on March 3rd will be Todd F. Sisto, MD FACS, who is a Plastic Surgeon in private practice in Citrus County. In addition to sharing information on his personal specialties (cosmetic, reconstructive, hand and skin cancer surgery), Todd is going to share with us information on recent innovations in his field being used to help our wounded warriors in their recovery from battlefield trauma.

In April, our guest speaker will be Audrey Ehrhardt, Esquire, partner in The Ehrhardt Elder Law Offices, PA. They have offices in both Citrus and Hernando Counties. I had the opportunity a few weeks ago to hear her in a presentation to the Men's Club in Glen Lakes and was very impressed. While, she says, one becomes "elder" once one passes their 18th birthday, the knowledge she will share with us on Advanced Directives, Medicare, Wills and Trusts, and Life Care Planning will be especially important for members of our Chapter.

I have recently received a spreadsheet from National listing who they consider to be potential members of MOAA and our Chapter. Typically these lists are not terribly accurate. People have moved, changed their phone numbers or have passed away. I intend to conduct a careful audit of the names provided and will share the results with you in time for our joint luncheon in May. Contacting the folks on the resulting list strikes me as a reasonable project for the summer months. In the meantime, remember to carry the Give Me 10 forms for free membership with you. If you don't have the 2011 forms, see me.

See you all on the 3rd of March!

Tim

(Captain's Call Dismissed)

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Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2011

The General Meeting of Military Officers Association of America, Citrus County Chapter convened at 12:00 on February 3, 2011 at the Emperor's Garden restaurant, Inverness, Florida. President Thomas T. Holme presiding. There were 25 present.

After first reminding the assembled membership that two county educators had been laid to rest during the past week, Chaplain Fred Ohsiek gave the invocation which included a blessing for the deceased educators. Norm Cooney then led in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

President Tim Holme welcomed our guest speaker, Citrus County Superintendent of Schools Sam Himmel and District One School Board member, Thomas Kennedy. Tim noted that he participated in last year's Veterans in the Classroom for the first time and found it an absolutely delightful experience.

President Tim Holme noted that Admiral McLeod was present after missing last month's meeting due to surgery. Tim said that the doctor's prognosis was excellent. So, "MAC is BACK." Also, newsletter editor Pat Colbert was in attendance and is making excellent progress from her recent automobile accident.

Tim and former president Sharon Melvan-Richie attended the latest MOAA president's meeting in Destin, Florida. Tim noted that it was a seven-hour drive up there followed by a seven-hour meeting. In addition to briefs on other MOAA information, Tim brought back the latest version of the MOAA Give-Me-Ten applications.

Tim said that we would be having our Dinner Theatre later this month in Hudson.

Secretary Gary E Runyon noted that the minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter. There being no corrections, a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes.

Gary said that Newsletter Editor Pat Colbert would be submitting the proposed names for the newsletter to the Board of Directors for approval.

Gary Runyon said that Newsletter Editor Pat Colbert is establishing a cut-off date for all newsletter articles and material. All items for the next month's newsletter must be received no-later-than one week after the previous meeting. Material received after the deadline will not appear in the next

newsletter, rather they will appear in the newsletter issue following one month later.

Gary reminded everyone of the February 17 dinner theatre. He said that four tables were filled and that the fifth table could only be reserved until the following Monday. This left four days to get the reservations in. He said the cost was \$42.50 which included a \$2.00 donation to the Bud Wise Scholarship.

Admiral McLeod noted that the Citrus County Veteran's Foundation is in need of someone to organize and run the Golf Tournament. The person who had been running it has stepped down. If anyone has any suggestions, please let him know.

Treasurer, Tom Green gave the Treasurer's Report. Tom began by noting that the principle in the Bud Wise Scholarship fund keeps going up and up. Thanks to the \$500.00 cruise prize, and the small social events surcharge, the principle now stands at \$6592.17 dollars.

Treasurer's Report
As of January 31, 2011

General Fund	
Receipts:	\$ 368.00
Disbursements	\$ 110.08
GF Balance:	\$5584.47(1)

CSF:	
Receipts(Interest):	\$ 0.00
Balance:	\$1239.61(2)

Petty Cash Fund:	0.00
PC Balance:	\$ 30.10

Wise CDs and Int:	\$2399.17 (\$6592.17)
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Grand Total:	\$9253.35
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(1) Includes \$4193.00 of Maurice Wise Scholarship Funds.
(2) Community Service Fund owes General Fund \$285.32
The Treasurer's report was approved.

Ron Lundberg spoke of the Rotary Club of Inverness Online Auction. This is a Rotary Club charity event. The final bidding for the various events would be appearing on WYKE television on Saturday, February 5th 1:00 - 6:00 P.M.

President Tim Holme introduced our guest speaker, Citrus County Superintendent of Schools, Sandra "Sam" Himmel.

Mrs. Himmel began her remarks by thanking the chapter for its commitment to

(Meeting Minutes continued on Page 3)

"Darkhorse" 3rd Battalion 5th Marines

A fellow comrade asked if I would publish this article in support of the Darkhorse Marines and their families. We are asking everyone to say a prayer for "Darkhorse" 3rd Battalion 5th Marines and their families. They are fighting it out in Afghanistan & they have lost 12 Marines in 4 days. He reported that IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE pass the information on as he did. He also stated the below information:

Listed below are all the Marines who gave their lives for YOU this week!

Justin Allen, 23, Brett Linley, 29, Matthew Weikert, 29, Justus Bartett, 27, Dave Santos, 21, Chase Stanley, 21, Jesse Reed, 26, Matthew Johnson, 21, Zachary Fisher, 24, Brandon King, 23, Christopher Goeke, 23, Sheldon Tate, 27,

Note: Although this is now public information and is now available under the public information act, our submitter wanted to remind us to respect the privacy of the veterans and their families in how we forwarded this information.

(Meeting Minutes continued from Page 3)

public service, within our county. She said that she was honored to speak today.

She noted that the chapter supports the school system by organizing the yearly, Veterans in the Classroom program. She said that our chapter members were great role models at a time when role models are "in short supply".

She noted that several members of the "Blessing in a Backpack" program were present. These are individuals who fill backpacks with foods and supplies so that needy school children can take them home and have nourishment over the weekend while they are away from the school.

Mrs. Himmel said that the county's FCAT scores are okay. She supports the FCAT system. It gives good feedback on teaching performance although the program could be designed and implemented a little better.

Our county has approximately 15,000 students, 2,500 employees and 153 buses, as well as, providing 12,000 meals per day.

As superintendent, she is responsible for not only the curriculum, but food services, maintenance, construction and transportation.

There is an effort, not yet completed and it is to take french fries out of school lunches.

Our county school system has three million square feet of buildings.

Our school employees also include nurses, social workers and therapists.

We have three JROTC programs representing the Army, Navy and the Air Force. After graduation, ten to fifteen JROTC students join the military each year.

It is typical for 3-4 levels of learning to go on in each classroom at the same time. This is called differential instruction and this allows levels of instruction to be tailored according to each

student's ability. There is a \$600,000.00 grant to bring in specialized American History teachers to give detailed history lectures. Sometimes, cross programs are combined such as reading comprehension and history lessons.

Throughout the years, subjects that must be taught, brought up or discussed have increased. Mrs. Himmel then read from a pamphlet that demonstrated from circa 1900 to the present how many more kinds of topics and courses must be taught in high school.

Mrs. Himmel was questioned from the floor why Forrest Ridge recently had two consecutive half days? That is, could the two half-days be combined into a whole day and save money? She replied that this was because teachers needed time to grade exams. Two combined half days count as only one full day and a second day would still be needed to meet the total number of teaching days required each year. So, combining half days would save no money.

Answering a question from the floor, Mrs. Himmel did say that lottery money does go to the schools. However, this does allow the state government to cut back on the money budgeted directly from taxes. This does tend to balance the total amount out.

Mrs. Himmel said that she was not totally opposed to year-round schools. However, all schools would have to be on the same system.

Mrs. Himmel explained how the school budget system works. The state government sets the budget based on a per capita system where the unit is the single student. By state law, this system requires counties to set property taxes millage rates to meet their funding requirements. The funds are sent to the state and the state matches the funds as necessary and returns the money to the county school system.

The final two comments from Mrs. Himmel were as follows:

- Our county is having success with electronic books (Kindle).
- Many students do not take the bus since their parents insist on driving them to school. This does create traffic jam problems.

District One School Board Member, Thomas Kennedy, said that he was honored to be at a meeting with former JROTC instructor Tim Holme and his fellow MOAA Chapter members. He specifically thanked the assembled chapter members for defending his rights as an American citizen.

Mr. Kennedy said that since the last election, it is now state policy that all students must satisfy a "college level" curriculum. That is, there is not a "two-laned" approach to graduation, i.e., a college preparatory curriculum and a vocational preparatory curriculum. Mr. Kennedy vigorously stressed that the two curriculum approach is much better and makes more sense.

Tim Holme thanked our guest speakers.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:05

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary E Runyon



Secretary's Notes

LCDR Gary Runyon, USN (Ret)

I don't know if anyone caught this at the February general meeting, but did anyone else catch a constant theme mentioned at some point by the first six speakers who took the floor at that meeting? This was the theme of public service to our home county.

Recall that when President Tim Holme opened the meeting, in his opening remarks, he greeted our guest speaker County Superintendent of School, Sam Himmel. In these remarks, Tim mentioned his first year as a Veterans in the Classroom instructor and how he enjoyed the experience.

In my secretary's report, I reminded every one of the upcoming Dinner Theatre and the cost which included a two dollar donation to our Bud Wise Scholarship Fund.

Tom Green gave the Treasurer's report and mentioned the healthy amount of principle in the Bud Wise Scholarship fund and how it is constantly growing. This was due to the two dollar surcharges at all chapter functions moreover to outright donations by chapter members. The Bud Wise Scholarship Fund is of course the centerpiece of our chapter's yearly program.

Chapter member Admiral McLeod mentioned the need for a new manager for the Citrus County Veterans Foundation for the golf tournament. These profits from the tournament all go as loans or grants to needy Citrus County veterans.

Chapter member Ron Lundberg then took the floor and asked members to participate in the Rotary Club's silent auction. These profits will be used for charitable purposes.

Guest speaker and County Superintendent of Schools, Sam Himmel's opening remarks were an immediate thank you to our chapter members for their participation in the Veterans in the Classroom program. The participation of our chapter members provided role models for the young students, as well as, examples of service to our country to give the students something to think about and in general help make our school system better.

The consistent theme found in all the six speakers' remarks was that of community service. It is pleasant to note that our chapter's upbeat commitment to public service outside our chapter has grown so much during the past 12-15 years or so. I am so pleased that when we invited an important county official to one of our meetings that this is what she got to see. It's good to know that when somebody thinks of our MOAA Chapter, they immediately think of community service and how our chapter has helped to make our county better. I think we can all be very proud to belong to an "outfit" like that. "Well done chapter members!"

Veteran to Veteran

For those of you who have seen the movie Pay It Forward, you will immediately get my sentiment and for those of you who have not, I will briefly explain it. Pay it forward is a concept that was generated by a little boy in the movie that learned from his school project that in order to receive a gift one has to go out and give the act of the gift of charity away. Pay It Forward was a challenge from his teacher and he was skeptical, but his actions even in death turned skepticism and the project into a project of generosity that was bigger than a elementary school aged child and it gave momentum to an entire community.

This message, "Veteran to Veteran" was sent to me by our past president Sharon Melvan-Ritchie, from another veteran to whom I have become acquainted (her neighbor) via e-mail. It had been passed from a retired Navy seal to a retired Warrant Officer and all for the same reason, to "Pay it Forward". It was to Send a message for Veterans to Veterans.

So today, I am choosing to Pay It Forward in mass and send this article to my fellow Veterans in MOAA. Enjoy the message. I think that we will all agree that we served our country with honor, pride and dignity. Shall we salute those outstanding men and women that are continuing that legacy today. The message is listed below:

Veteran to Veteran

When a Veteran leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and others, who may have already retired, wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

1. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.
2. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.
3. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

NOW... Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends Comparisons:

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will stand by you no matter what the crowd does.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences...

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, 'You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!' Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will forward this.

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, served one hitch, or reserve is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Government of the United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life'.

From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your company. Thank you for your service to our country and defending the freedoms we enjoy.

MOAA UPDATE: Final Payment Due 2/21/11

Cruise Date: May 8-15, 2011



“Happy St. Patrick’s Day”

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

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Legislation News for March



Tim Holme

CAPT, USNavy (Ret)

Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.

– George Washington

It's hard to know where to start. Whether it's Washington, Tallahassee, (or Madison) there is activity of interest everywhere. Let's begin with Tricare. Folks often ask if MOAA (or anyone) can really make a difference by sending postcards or emails. The answer is "Absolutely!" For months, Defense Secretary Gates has been calling for major changes to Tricare including TFL(Tricare for Life) e.g., raising TFL deductible from \$300 to \$1000, increasing Tricare prime enrollment fees from \$460 to \$1200, raising pharmacy copays to 2 or 3 times the current rates, and so on. In response, MOAA and its membership made their voices heard and DOD has backed down. VADM Ryan joined members of the military coalition at a meeting in the Pentagon and was informed of the following: The new plan entails no changes for TRICARE Standard or TRICARE For Life, and no means-testing of fees. It proposes what [Under Sec] Stanley described as "modest, gradual" changes in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, and would exempt military disability (chapter 61) retirees and survivors from those changes.

Specifically, the plan calls for:

- Raising the 2012 Prime enrollment fees by 13%.
- from \$230 single/\$460 family per year to \$260/\$520 (survivor and chapter 61 retiree fees would remain at current rates).
- Indexing those fees in 2013 and beyond to a medical inflation index (based on a measure of

Medicare cost growth projected to rise at 6.2% per year).

-- Changing TRICARE pharmacy copays as follows (changes indicated in parentheses):

	Retail	Home Delivery (Mail Order)
Generic	\$5 (+\$2)	Zero (-\$3)
Brand Name	\$12 (+\$3)	\$9 (no change)
Nonformulary	\$25 (+\$3)	\$25 (+\$3)

There is no question in my mind, we do make a difference.

Elsewhere, the major news has focused on the Budgets (both Federal and State). This week's Economist (Feb 19th–25th) describes last week's Federal budget submission as "The latest cop-out". According to the Economist, "the real problem with both Mr Obama's budget and the Republicans' proposals is not so much the half-truths and fibs within them, as all the things they both left out. America needs to simplify its tax system and (slightly) increase its overall tax take. It needs to rein in its defense spending, which is currently equivalent to that of the next 20 countries combined. Also, it needs to tackle the gathering surge in entitlement costs." To me, it's actually going to be fun following the arguments over the next few weeks. The current (FY11) budget is still operating on a continuing resolution (CR). That CR expires on March 4th. The Senate Majority Leader is trying hard to get that CR extended. The problem with that, however, is that it authorizes spending to continue at the FY10 rates. It's those rates that the Republicans targeted during last fall's campaign by saying they were going to cut spending by 100 Billion dollars. The more the CR can be extended, the harder it becomes for Republicans to make good on their campaign promise.

Elsewhere in the nation, states are struggling to bring their budgets into balance. Operating with budget deficits is not a viable option for the states. In Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker is trying to balance the budget (and avoid layoffs) by asking state employees to contribute to their retirement and health care costs. They now contribute nothing. To avoid providing a quorum for a vote they would lose, the minority party has fled the state en-mass. Wisconsin is not alone. Expect similar votes soon in Ohio and elsewhere. Of course it's not that simple. There are questions of collective bargaining by

public employees (North Carolina, Texas and Virginia don't allow it) and the question of right to work laws and union dues. The Florida Senate is currently considering a bill that would prevent the state from collecting union dues. We should expect lively action from the unions and the administration regarding any legislation that might affect the funding of political campaigns.

Lastly, I can't close this month's column without commenting on the current controversy in Florida over Governor Scott's rejection of Federal money to build a high-speed rail line from Tampa to Orlando. I believe that his decision was courageous. In doing so, he joined John Kasich of Ohio and Wisconsin's Scott Walker in rejecting funds from President Obama's 2009 stimulus legislation. Last year, Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey refused government money for a commuter-rail tunnel under the Hudson River. It's really a question of fiscal responsibility. As an individual, there are unquestionably some things that I would like to have. However, if I simply can't afford them, I don't buy them. And, if I can afford them today, but future costs to retain them cannot be afforded, I still don't buy them. Pay close attention to the Florida Legislature (and others) as they attempt an end run to build the system anyway. If there is the slightest hint that the taxpayer will ever be financially responsible, watch out!

Women's History Month

[Highlights in the History of Military Women by Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. history@womensmemorial.org](#)

American Revolution (1775-1783): Women serve on the battlefield as nurses, water bearers, cooks, laundresses and saboteurs.

War of 1812: Mary Marshall and Mary Allen nurse aboard Commodore Stephen Decatur's ship *United States*.

Mexican War (1846-1848): Elizabeth Newcom enlists in Company D of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry as Bill Newcom. She marches 600 miles from Missouri to winter camp at Pueblo, Colorado, before she is discovered to be a woman and discharged.

Civil War (1861-1865): Women provide casualty care and nursing to Union and Confederate troops at field hospitals and on the Union Hospital Ship *Red Rover*. Women soldiers on both sides disguise themselves as men in order to serve. In 1866, Dr. Mary Walker receives the Medal of Honor. She is the only woman to receive the nation's highest military honor.

Spanish-American War (1898): Thousands of US soldiers sick with typhoid, malaria and yellow fever, overwhelm the capabilities of the Army Medical Department. Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee suggests to the Army Surgeon General that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) be appointed to select professionally qualified nurses to serve under contract to the US Army. Before the war ends, 1,500 civilian contract nurses are assigned to Army hospitals in the US, Hawaii, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines, as well as to the Hospital Ship *Relief*. Twenty nurses die. The Army appoints Dr. McGee Acting Assistant Surgeon General, making her the first woman ever to hold the position. The Army is impressed by the performance of its contract nurses and asks Dr. McGee to write legislation creating a permanent corps of nurses.

1901: Army Nurse Corps is established.

1908: Navy Nurse Corps is established.

World War I (1917-1918): During the course of the war, 21,480 Army nurses serve in military hospitals in the United States and overseas. Eighteen African-American Army nurses serve stateside caring for German prisoners of war (POWs) and African-American soldiers. The Army recruits and trains 233 bilingual telephone operators to work at switchboards near the front in France and sends 50 skilled stenographers to France to work with the Quartermaster Corps. The Navy enlists 11,880 women as Yeomen (F) to serve stateside in shore billets and release sailors for sea duty. More than 1,476 Navy nurses serve in military hospitals stateside and overseas. The Marine Corps enlists 305 Marine Reservists (F) to "free men to fight" by filling positions such as clerks and telephone operators on the home front. Two women serve with the Coast Guard. More than 400 military nurses die in the line of duty during World War I. The vast majority of these women die from a highly contagious form of influenza known as the "Spanish Flu," which sweeps through crowded military camps and hospitals and ports of embarkation.

Army Reorganization Act (1920): A provision of the Army Reorganization Act grants military nurses the status of officers with "relative rank" from second lieutenant to major (but not full rights and privileges).

World War II (1941-1945): More than 60,000 Army nurses serve stateside and overseas during World War II. Sixty-seven Army nurses are captured by the Japanese in the Philippines in 1942 and are held as POWs for over two and a half years. The Army establishes the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942, which is converted to the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943. More than 150,000 women serve as WACs during the war; thousands are sent to the European and Pacific theaters. The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) are organized and fly as civil service pilots. WASPs fly stateside missions as ferriers, test pilots and anti-aircraft artillery trainers. More than 14,000 Navy nurses serve stateside, overseas on hospital ships and as flight nurses during the war. Five Navy nurses are captured by the Japanese on the island of Guam and held as POWs for five months before being exchanged. A second group of eleven Navy nurses are captured in the Philippines and held for 37 months. The Navy recruits women into its Navy Women's Reserve, called Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), starting in 1942. Before the war is over, more than 80,000 WAVES fill shore billets in a large variety of jobs in communications, intelligence, supply, medicine and administration. The Marine Corps creates the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in 1943. Marine women serve stateside as clerks, cooks, mechanics, drivers, and in a variety of

other positions. The Coast Guard establishes their Women's Reserve known as the SPARs (after the motto *Semper Paratus - Always Ready*) in 1942. SPARs are assigned stateside and serve as storekeepers, clerks, photographers, pharmacist's mates, cooks and in numerous other jobs. In 1943, the US Public Health Service establishes the Cadet Nurse Corps which trains some 125,000 women for possible military service. More than 400,000 American military women serve at home and overseas in nearly all non combat jobs. As the country demobilizes, all but a few servicewomen are mustered out, even though the United States, now a world power, is forced to maintain the largest peacetime military in the history of the nation.

1947: The Army-Navy Nurse Act of 1947 makes the Army Nurse Corps and Women's Medical Specialist Corps part of the Regular Army and gives permanent commissioned officer status to Army and Navy nurses.

1948: The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 grants women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps as well as in the newly created Air Force.

Executive Order 9981 ends racial segregation in the armed services.

1949: Air Force Nurse Corps is established.

The first African-American women enlist in the Marine Corps.

Korean War (1950-1953): Servicewomen who had joined the Reserves following World War II are involuntarily recalled to active duty during the war. More than 500 Army nurses serve in the combat zone and many more are assigned to large hospitals in Japan during the war. One Army nurse dies in a plane crash en route to Korea on July 27, 1950, shortly after hostilities begin. Navy nurses serve on hospital ships in the Korean theater of war as well as at Navy hospitals stateside. Eleven Navy nurses die en route to Korea when their plane crashes in the Marshall Islands. Air Force nurses serve stateside, in Japan and as flight nurses in the Korean theater during the conflict. Three Air Force nurses are killed in plane crashes while on duty. Many other servicewomen are assigned to duty in the theater of operations in Japan and Okinawa.

1951: The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) is created to advise on the recruitment of military women for the Korean War.

1953: The first woman physician is commissioned as a medical officer in the Regular Army.

Navy Hospital Corps women are assigned positions aboard Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS) ships for the first time.

1955: Men are accepted into the Army and Air Force Nurse Corps and the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

1958: Lebanon Crisis. Military nurses are assigned to the hospitals which deploy during the crisis to support over 10,000 troops.

1961: The first woman Marine is promoted to Sergeant Major.

1965: Men are accepted into the Navy Nurse Corps. The Marine Corps assigns the first woman to attaché duty. Later, she is the first woman Marine to serve under hostile fire

Vietnam War (1965-1975): Some 7,000 American military women serve in Southeast Asia, the majority of them nurses. An Army nurse is the only US military woman to die from enemy fire in Vietnam. An Air Force flight nurse dies when the C-5A Galaxy transport evacuating Vietnamese orphans she was aboard crashes on takeoff. Six other American military women die in the line of duty.

1967: Legal provisions placing a two percent cap on the number of women serving and a ceiling on the highest grade a women can achieve are repealed.

1968: The first Air Force woman is sworn into the Air National Guard (ANG) with the passage of Public Law 90-130, which allows the ANG to enlist women.

1969: Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC) opens to women.

1970: The first women in the history of the armed forces, the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps and the Women's Army Corps Director, are promoted to brigadier general.

1971: The first Air Force woman is promoted to brigadier general.

An Air Force woman completes Aircraft Maintenance Officer's School and becomes the first woman aircraft maintenance officer.

The first woman is assigned as a flight surgeon in the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve.

A staff sergeant becomes the first female technician in the Air Force Reserve.

1972: The Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is opened to Army and Navy women.

Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, publishes Z-116 declaring the Navy's commitment to equal rights and opportunities for women.

The Hospital Ship USS *Sanctuary* is the first Naval vessel to sail with a male/female crew.

The Navy promotes the first woman to rear admiral, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps.

1973: The end of draft and the establishment of the All Volunteer Force opens the door for expanding servicewomen's roles and numbers. The first Navy women earn military pilot wings. The first woman in the history of the armed forces is promoted to major general. The Navy accepts its first woman chaplain.

The Supreme Court rules unconstitutional inequities in benefits for the dependents of military women. Until then, military women with dependents were not authorized housing nor were their dependants eligible for the benefits and privileges afforded the dependents of male military members, such as medical, commissary and post exchange, etc.

1974: An Army woman becomes the first woman military helicopter pilot.

1975: DoD reverses policies and provides pregnant women with the option of electing discharge or remaining on active duty. Previous policies required women be discharged upon pregnancy or the adoption of children.

The Air Force places the first woman on operational crew status.

1976: Women are admitted to the service academies.

The Navy promotes the first woman line officer to rear admiral.

The Air Force selects the first woman reservist for the undergraduate pilot training program.

1977: The first Coast Guard women are assigned to sea duty as crew members aboard the *Morgenthau* and *Gallatin*.

Military veteran status is granted to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) who flew during WWII.

1978: The Coast Guard opens all assignments to women.

The Marine Corps promotes its first woman to brigadier general. The first Army woman is promoted to two-star general. She is also the first woman officer to command a major military installation.

The Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) assigns the first woman aircrew member to alert duty.

Judge John Sirica rules the law banning Navy women from ships to be unconstitutional. Congress amends the law by opening non combat ships to women. The USS *Vulcan*, a repair ship, receives

the first of many Navy women to be assigned shipboard under the amended law.

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) is disestablished and its members integrated into the Regular Army.

1979: An Army Nurse Corps officer becomes the first African-American woman brigadier general in the history of the armed forces.

The first woman to command a military vessel assumes command of the Coast Guard Cutter *Cape Newagen*.

The first woman Naval aviator obtains carrier qualification.

The Marine Corps assigns women as embassy guards.

1980: The first women graduate from the service academies.

The first woman is assigned to command a Naval Training Command.

1982: The Air Force selects the first woman aviator for Test Pilot School.

The Marine Corps prohibits women from serving as embassy guards.

1983: The first Navy woman completes Test Pilot School.

Approximately 200 Army and Air Force women are among the forces deployed to Grenada on Operation Urgent Fury. Women serve on air crews, as military police, and as transportation specialists.

The first woman in any reserve component, an Air Force Reserve officer, is promoted to brigadier general.

1984: For the first time in history, the Naval Academy's top graduate is a woman.

A Coast Guard officer is the first woman to serve as a Presidential Military Aide.

1985: For the first time in history, the Coast Guard Academy's top graduate is a woman. The first Air Force Reserve nurse is promoted to brigadier general.

1986: Six Air Force women serve as pilots, copilots and boom operators on the KC-135 and KC-10 tankers that refuel FB-111s during the raid on Libya.

For the first time in history, the Air Force Academy's top graduate is a woman.

A Navy woman becomes the first female jet test pilot in any service.

The Coast Guard's rescue swimmer program graduates its first woman.

1987: The Navy assigns its first woman Force Master Chief and Independent Duty Corpsman to serve at sea.

The first enlisted woman is assigned as Officer-In-Charge aboard a Coast Guard vessel.

1988: NASA selects its first Navy woman as an astronaut. The Coast Guard's "Chief Warrant Officer to Lieutenant" program promotes its first woman.

Marine women are again assigned as embassy guards.

1989: 770 women deploy to Panama in Operation Just Cause. Two women command Army companies in the operation and three women Army pilots are nominated for Air Medals. Two receive the Air Medal with "V" device for participation in a combat mission.

For the first time in history, the US Military Academy (West Point) names a woman as its Brigade Commander and First Captain.

NASA selects its first Army woman as an astronaut.

The Navy assigns its first woman as Command Master Chief at sea.

A woman is the first person trained for a new specialty, Coast Guard Flight Officer. These officers are responsible for tactical coordination of the drug interdiction efforts aboard Coast Guard aircraft.

War in the Persian Gulf (1990-1991): Some 40,000 American military women are deployed during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Two Army women are taken prisoner by the Iraqis. For more details on the **1991-2002** check the detailed history cited for this article. (Space would not allow all of the entire history to be covered here).

2003: The first Native American servicewoman is killed in battle. She was one of three women who became prisoners of war during the first days of the war in Iraq.

2004: By year's end, 19 servicewomen had been killed as a result of hostile action since the war in Iraq had begun in 2003, the most servicewomen to die as a result of hostile action in any war that the nation had participated.

The first woman in US Air Force history takes command of a fighter squadron.

2005: The first woman in history is awarded the Silver Star for combat action. She is one of 14 women in US history to receive the medal.

An Air Force woman becomes the Air Force Academy's Commandant of Cadets, the No. 2 position at the nation's service academies. She is the first woman in the history of any of the academies to be appointed to this position.

The first woman in US Air Force history joins the prestigious USAF Air Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds." She was also the first woman on any US military high performance jet team.

2006: The Coast Guard appoints the first woman Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, making her the first woman in history to serve as a deputy service chief in any of the US Armed Forces.

The Marine Corps assigns the first woman Marine in history to command a Recruit Depot.

2007: The first woman in US Naval history takes command of a fighter squadron.

The last woman veteran of World War I dies, a former yeoman (F).

2008: For the first time in US military history, a woman is promoted to the rank of four-star general. She is promoted by the US Army.

To date servicewomen are still restricted from serving in the following positions: Army: Infantry, armor, special forces, combat engineer companies, ground surveillance radar platoons, and air defense artillery batteries. Air Force: Pararescue, combat controllers and those units and positions that routinely collocate with direct ground combat units. Navy: Submarines, coastal patrol boats, mine warfare ships, SEAL (special forces) units, joint communications units that collocate with SEALs, and support positions (such as medical, chaplain, etc.) collocated with Marine Corps units that are closed to women. Marine Corps: Infantry regiments and below, artillery battalions and below, all armored units, combat engineer battalions, reconnaissance units, riverine assault craft units, low altitude air defense units, and fleet anti-terrorism security teams. Coast Guard: None.



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Citrus County Veterans Foundation
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Lecanto, Florida 34460

MOAA LUNCHEONS

General Meeting
at
Emperor's Garden
1314 Highway 41N., Inverness
Next door to the Inverness Post Office
1200 hours Thursday, March 3, 2011

*Open Buffet - Private meeting room
Reservations not required*

Women of MOAA

Women of MOAA will meet for our March luncheon at 12:00 noon (hours) Thursday, March 24 at The McLeod House Bistro on 207 N. Apopka Avenue in downtown Inverness, FL. We will dine Al fresco weather permitting.

Please reply to Louise with RSVP: Louise
Aussie90@tampabay.rr.com
352 637-5898

Chapter Calendar of Upcoming,

Thursday, March 3, 2011, General Meeting at 1200 hours at the Emperor's Garden, 1314 Highway 41N., Next door to the Inverness Post Office.

Thursday, March 10, 2011, Submissions for April Newsletter due to the Editor. Late submissions will be included in the following month's newsletter.

Sunday, March 13, 2011, Daylight Savings Time Begins. DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCK FORWARD!!!

Wednesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day

Sunday, March 20, 2011, First Day of Spring

Thursday, March 24, Women of MOAA luncheon at 1200 noon at The McLeod House Bistro, 207 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL.

Saturday, March 26, 2011, Veteran's Fair at 1000 - 1300 hours at Nature Coast High School, Hernando, FL, Volunteers needed!!!

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

Editor's Corner, Two Top Websites of the Month



Monthly Health Observances

Nutrition Month: American: www.eatright.org

Diabetes Awareness: www.diabetes.org