

THE BUGLER



*Military Officers Association of America, Citrus County Chapter
Post Office Box 995, Inverness, Florida 34451-0995*

Captain's Call

By CAPT Thomas T. Holme, Jr. USN (Ret)

The lead item this month is our urgent need to fill key positions on our Chapter Staff. Our annual election is scheduled for November and our installation dinner is Thursday, December 1st. It sometimes seems that a small cadre of individuals always steps forward to volunteer. That's the way it is with most organizations and I think it's great that we have these dedicated people committed to making our chapter successful. But, as we have recently experienced, when circumstances deprive us of someone's services unexpectedly, we suffer if there is no adequate back-up. PLEASE, step forward and nominate yourself to serve in some small way. Perhaps two of you would be willing to tag-team a job. That could be a couple or two good friends who could share responsibilities.

On Sunday, October 2nd we are having our annual picnic at RADM Mac McLeod's house in Citrus Hills. This is always great fun and a great time to socialize with everyone, especially folks who find it difficult to make it to our monthly meeting during the work week. If you haven't already done so, be sure to respond to Gary Runyon's email for yeas and nays and put it on your calendar for 1300 on the 2nd.

October 6th is our next regular meeting and our Guest speaker will be FCOC President Capt Don Freese who has promised to bring everyone up to date on what's happening in the Florida Council. It's also an anniversary for our chapter, I'm told (30 years) and I expect our area VP Maj "Skip" Harnett to be there too.

INSIDE THIS INFORMATIVE ISSUE

Captain's Call	1
Minutes of the September 1meeting	2
Legislation Report for October	5
Secretary's Notes	6
Fall Picnic	8
Letter to MOAA CC President Tim Holme	9
Coming Events	10

Balloting will begin at our November 3rd meeting and by mail in order to have results tabulated well in time for the installation dinner. Details to follow from our Chapter Secretary. Also, our guest speaker in November will be Paula A. Welenc, LMSW, who is a member of MOAA and the Manager of the James A Haley Veterans' Hospital Fisher House in Tampa. She will discuss the operation of the Tampa Fisher House and will update us on the plans for a similar project for Gainesville.

Late last month I had the opportunity to participate in a meeting of a Veterans Advisory Board organized by Congressman Rich Nugent. Perhaps some of you had a similar opportunity. My meeting was in Hernando County where I live. I would love to have the opportunity to compare notes with you. In the meantime, please let me know what VA issues you would like for me to address on your behalf. These should be issues of general interest rather than personal ones, which are best handled by the Congressman's case workers.

Tim

Minutes of the September 1, 2011 General Meeting

The General Meeting of Military Officers Association of America, Citrus County Chapter convened at 12:01 on September 1, 2011 at the Emperors Garden Restaurant in Inverness, Florida. President Thomas T. Holme Jr. presiding. There were 23 in attendance.

Chaplain Frederick Ohsiek gave the invocation and Norm Cooney led in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. The chapter's colours were present.

President Tim Holme said that, in May, he had attended the MOAA CC convention and had brought home some good information.

Tim extended a "Happy Birthday" greeting to Treasurer, Tom Green who was 76 years old that day.

Tim said that our chapter had won another Four Star MOAA award. The plan is for this award to be presented to our chapter during the next meeting in October. Initially, there was some confusion about the award since it was awarded for a "category 4" chapter. In actuality, our chapter is a category 2 due to size of our membership. This little detail has been corrected and we will now correctly receive the 4 star awards as a category 2 chapter.

Pat Colbert has been unable to work on the newsletter as a result of medical complications. Thus, our chapter will need a new newsletter editor. This position is critical and needs to be filled immediately.

The MOAA logo will now appear on one of the marble tiles on the County's Fallen Heroes Monument. Various other Citrus County veterans' chapters and organizations will have their logos appearing too. Several members of our chapter contributed towards the \$250.00 dollar fee required to engrave the logo into the marble tile.

Tim said that Hank Butler, Admiral McLeod and he had been regularly attending this year's Veterans Appreciation Week Ad Hoc Committee meetings. Tim reminded everyone to participate in this year's Veterans in the Classroom program which will run during the first two weeks of November.

MOAA also will be participating in this year's Veteran's Fair.

Tim said that MOAA Chapter candidates are needed for the November elections. Positions needed are Vice President and three Board of Director members. Two appointed positions are vacant. They are the PAO and Newsletter Editor.

Norm Cooney is currently acting as Interim Vice President. Ron Resare volunteered as PAO.

Tim recognized former MOAA CC president and Citrus County Commissioner J J Kenney, who was present. Commissioner Kenney said that he had to leave the meeting early to attend an important government meeting.

Commissioner Kenney said that his stepson is currently deployed in Afghanistan and he asked for the prayers of all MOAA members. He also said that he had received a letter from former JROTC Cadet Tyler Deem. Tyler Deem was the 2007 winner of the Bud Wise Scholarship. He has since graduated from college and is looking forward to becoming a member of the Army Rangers.

Tim introduced our guest speaker, CDR Garfield Jones USPHS. Tim said that Gary Runyon and he had first met Garfield at the February Veterans Fair in Hernando. Garfield submitted an application and is currently the newest member of our chapter. (Coincidentally, four charter members, and thus earliest chapter members were present. They are: Tom and Joyce Marr as well as Bob and Mary England.) Garfield is the first member of our local MOAA Chapter to be a member of the United States Public Health Service.

Garfield began his remarks by noting that he works for the ESGR or Employer Support of the Guard or Reserve. He currently lives in Orlando but commutes regularly to Citrus County and is looking for a house here.

Since the original Gulf War in the 1990s, it is true that more and more, Reservists and Guardsmen are doing a lot more real world fighting and a lot less “weekend mustering.” There are laws which specifically protect the jobs of Reservists when they deploy so that they might reasonably expect their original jobs when they return from serving their country. Specifically, this is the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (“USERRA” or “the Act”). 38 U.S.C. 4301–4334. USERRA is a law that establishes certain rights and benefits for employees, and duties for employers. USERRA affects employment, reemployment, and retention in employment, when employees serve or have served in the uniformed services.

Garfield said that in his ESGR capacity, he speaks in behalf of the Secretary of Defense. He also said that as an ESGR worker, he is more of a government liaison, a case worker and a fact finder. He is however, not an enforcer. If employers violate certain laws pertaining to employment of veterans, he just gathers the facts and acts as a mitigator. If the employer is unresponsive, then the Department of Labour provides the enforcement muscle. One employer who had refused to rehire a returning veteran had to reimburse a returning veteran eight times the lost wages.

As an ESGR worker, Garfield investigates all matters concerning USSRRA in the Central Florida region. If nominated, he gives awards to employers who fully support our veterans.

If a veteran returns home and finds that his job is gone, then ESGR helps the veteran find a job. Actually, ESGR can help any uniformed service member with this job finding service. Indeed, some employers like to advertise their jobs with the ESGR as sort of a placement service. Veterans tend to be highly screened and are good employment risks.

Garfield also acts as a government representative who verifies that the employee is indeed a member of the Reserve or National Guard. Sometimes this fact is not mentioned in job interviews. There is some gamesmanship taking place during job interviews. This question is not usually asked during any job interview since it is against the law to deny a job simply because the potential employee is a member of the National Guard or Reserve.

Sometimes Garfield can arrange for and coordinate seats on board C-130s training flights for reservists. This is certainly good for morale.

Tim thanked Garfield for his remarks.

Sharon Richie-Melvan said that there would be two separate Military type balls this year. She also said that MOAA is currently debating whether or not to grant Auxiliary members full voting rights at the National level.

Admiral McLeod amplified on the Military Balls saying that currently, a traditional "Marine Corps Ball" is being planned for November 10 and the annual "Military Ball" (also sponsored by the Marines) is being planned for November 12. This is in addition to a third ball in December which is hosted by the Korean War Veterans Association.

Tom Green submitted a Treasurers Report for inclusion into the minutes:

As of August 31, 2011:

General Fund Receipts:	\$ 260.00
GF Disbursements	\$ 250.00
GF Balance*	\$5150.41
Community Service Fund	No Activity
CSF Fund Balance**	\$1240.23
Petty Cash Fund receipts	\$ 0.00
Petty Cash Fund disbursements	\$ 0.00
PCF Balance	\$ 9.10
Wise CD/Interest	\$2407.62

Total \$ 8807.36

* Includes \$3294.90 of Bud Wise Scholarship Funds.

** General Fund owes CSF \$9.68

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary E Runyon
Secretary

Legislation Report for October

By Tim Holme

Congress is back in session, political debates are a nearly weekly event, and the newspapers and broadcasts are loaded with the opinions of experts that feel obligated to tell us what to believe. There is a strong temptation to tune out completely until next year's election is finally over. Please don't.

Now more than ever I believe that it is critical that we stay attentive to what is going on and that we actively seek clear, concise and correct answers to the questions that matter most to us. Belonging to MOAA is important because our interests are well served and that effort is balanced and reasoned even while it focuses on the needs of folks who wear or have worn a military uniform.

Some thoughts: There's a big difference between deficit and debt. If I, in my personal life, were only concerned about controlling or reducing deficit I would soon be stone cold broke. As long as you're spending more than you earn your debt is going to continue to increase. The only real solution is to run a surplus and use it to pay down debt. I'm waiting for a candidate who can convince me that they intend to do this.

I question whether government ever really creates jobs. Working for the government, no matter how seemingly important the task, isn't really a job. To me jobs provide services or products that other people want and are willing to pay for. People create real jobs. I'm waiting for a candidate who knows how to create real jobs that produce real services and products not paid for by taxes. I'm tired of people insulting my intelligence. When someone says "anyone with any intelligence at all knows that . . ." or "it's an incontrovertible fact that . . ." they're telling me that if I disagree with them that I must be stupid. The truth is that when they resort to this sort of discussion elimination tactic, I usually conclude that they really aren't too sure of themselves. That's ok with me; just

don't insult me in order to build your own confidence in what you believe. I'm waiting for a candidate that doesn't insult my intelligence.

It bothers me when a candidate tries to appeal to voters based on their differences from the general population. To do so risks creating an atmosphere where caste, race, religion, etc. are determinant. I worry that the next step is class warfare. I'm really waiting for a candidate who refuses to curry favor with one group at the expense of others just to secure their vote.

Vote! (If you don't, you forfeit all right to complain about who wins.)

---Tim ☺---

Secretary's Notes

As you may have sort of guessed by now, we are training a new newsletter editor and are experimenting with a new format. Please bear with us while we tweak the style of the newsletter presentation. I know that there is not one MOAA logo appearing in the entire newsletter, and I do apologise to the MOAA women and others for not having any information on their meetings and projects. Please understand, this newsletter attempt was a last minute attempt to get some sort of newsletter published this month. As we are discovering, there is a huge learning curve for any new editor. So, it might take a couple of months or so before we can polish our presentation with pictures and the like. I do think we got most of the basics included though.

Our elections are coming up in November and we do need to fill several billets. Please read our President's comments on this subject in his column on page one.

I look forward to seeing you all at the fall picnic on October 2. Please see page 9 for the details.

It is my sad duty to report the death of COL Robert C. Greene USA (Ret). He passed away on Sunday, August 21, after a brief illness.

Bob was a former president of our local MOAA chapter in the early 90s when we were known as TROA. During his presidency, considerable changes were made to our chapter's operating structure and legal status as non-profit corporation. He was also a frequent member of the Board of Directors and was considered to be one of our chapter's "Old Guard."

During WWII, Bob served with distinction in the Indochina-Burma Theatre. He loved to tell fascinating stories and wry anecdotes about his wartime experiences with his peers and captured Japanese soldiers.

Bob was exceedingly civic minded in the sense that he was a teacher and a leader by example. He continued to volunteer for service at Inverness Primary School and other civic activities well into his late 90s. He was an author who published a book of poetry.

Bob lived to age of 101 years. Last summer, our chapter celebrated his 100th birthday with a birthday party held during our "Summertime Blues" meeting. The event was reported by the Citrus County Chronicle.

Bob is survived by his widow, Lori as well as several children and numerous grandchildren.

A family gathering and service was held for Bob at Petersburg, Virginia where he was buried. Lori described this family gathering to me as a "celebration of his life."

Bob was gentle, disarmingly friendly and always upbeat. Quite simply, Bob was a trophy model for veteran who had served his country and lived a long, useful and joyful life. When we saw his picture or an article in the paper describing his military career and accomplishments, it made us proud to know he was one of our own chapter members. He was always humble and unassuming about his achievements. He will be missed. Our chapter and our county have lost a true diamond.

I extend my deepest and heartfelt condolences to Lori and her family. I respectfully tip my hat to Bob for a life well lived. May God bless Bob and his wife, Lori.

I must also report the death of Auxiliary member, Irene Johnson, who passed away September 4th. Irene was the widow of service member Clyde Johnson. Both were lifetime Citrus County residents. I also extend my condolences to her family.

---Gary---

ANNUAL FALL MOAA PICNIC

MOAA of Citrus County will be having our traditional annual fall picnic at Admiral McLeod's house beginning at 13:00 on Sunday, October 2. This is a chance for MOAA members to gather for a lazy autumn afternoon of relaxation and fellowship.

Admiral McLeod will be firing up the grill to create his world famous five ounce "Bigger Macs" as well as those tasty hot dogs with the perfect amount of grill marks on them. This year, Admiral MAC will be using a custom made grill especially designed and built to bring out the best flavours. Wine, Beer, Soda and water will be available. Members are encouraged to bring a small pot luck dish, salad or desert.

The cost is \$7.00 dollars per person with Auxiliary members attending for free. The cost includes a built-in \$2.00 dollar donation to our Bud Wise Scholarship Fund. Payments can be made on site at the picnic.

Members are encouraged to bring their own folding chairs. Plenty of parking is available along the tree line on both sides of Idle Street.

MAC's house is located in Citrus Hills at 670 West Pearson Street, Hernando, Florida. Beginning on Highway 44 approximately 1000 feet West of the Landfill, turn north onto Otis and follow it until it turns right onto Union. Make an immediate left at Quartz and follow it north until it turns right onto West Pearson. Follow West Pearson heading East until you come to Idle. The house is located at Pearson and Idle.

Coming from Highway 486, turn south at Essex and follow it all the way to the end. Essex will turn right (west) at the very end and immediately end at Fresno. Turn left (south) at Fresno and follow it until you reach West Pearson. Turn right (west) and follow West Pearson until you come to Idle which is your destination.

An excellent map can be found at: <http://maps.google.com> . Just click the site and enter "670 West Pearson Street, Hernando, Florida". This site also has a zoomable satellite view.

For planning purposes, I am requesting that you return this email with a yea or nay on whether or not you will be attending. Please include the total number attending. I will need to get these planning numbers to Admiral McLeod by Sunday, September 25.

So come join us for an opportunity to relax and mingle with you fellow MOAA members while simultaneously helping to support our Bud Wise Scholarship fund. A pleasant time is guaranteed for all!

Dear Captain Holme,

It's time to man battle stations.

Yesterday, the Administration put out its plan to cut the deficit by \$3 trillion over the next 10 years, including specific proposals for \$27 billion in cuts in the military retirement and health care package.

The Administration plan envisions:

- Establishing an annual enrollment fee for TRICARE For Life
- Another (unspecified) retail pharmacy copay hike
- Establishing a BRAC-style commission to recommend "modernizing" the military retirement system

Most upsetting, the stated intent of the proposals is to "align government programs with those in the private sector" and address the "measurable disparity between the fees most retired private sector workers pay...and what retired military personnel pay."

Those words show a shocking insensitivity to the extraordinary demands and sacrifices imposed on career servicemembers and families.

Our strong stance has attracted a major media blitz. Our staff experts have been quoted in The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and The Lou Dobbs Show in the last two days alone. We anticipate a great deal of media attention over the next few weeks due to MOAA's reputation as a reliable source.

Now is the time for all MOAA members to mobilize. Please urge your officer friends to join MOAA and start actively working to protect their interests and those of the current and future force.

This isn't just about equity. It's about an attack on the core elements that sustain the quality career force that protects our national security.

Any who continue to sit on the sidelines jeopardize their own interests, the military community's, and the nation's future capability to sustain a strong national defense.

Start by sending this [MOAA-suggested message](#) to your elected officials.

This battle is just beginning.

Sincerely,



VADM Norb Ryan, USN (Ret)

MOAA of Citrus County

PO Box 995
Inverness, Florida
34451-0955

Phone:

352-563-5727

E-Mail:

laserger@infionline.net

**God Bless my
homeland....forever!**

Coming Events

Annual Fall Picnic: October 2, 2011

Next General Meeting: 12:00 Noon, October 6 at the
Emperor's Garden Restaurant in Inverness.

Visit our award winning Web site!

You can find us at:

<http://citruscountymoaa.org/>

MOAA of Citrus County
Post Office Box 991
Inverness, Florida 34451-0995



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code