

Golden Empire Scuttlebutt

MOAA

BALERSFIELD CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 11853, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

President's Message

Fellow Chapter Members and Future Members,

The month of September has taken on a new meaning over the last ten years. Much like December 7th is "a day to remember" September 11th has become the touchstone of a day of remembrance. Not since 1941, 70 years before, have we been attacked on our own soil. It is a day that reminds us that our vigilance should never waiver on foreign shores as well as here at home. We all are tasked with the responsibility of defense since there are no longer any concrete lines of demarcation.

I pause with you in reflection, realizing that we still live in a world where our young men and women are needed to patrol the skies, sail the seas, land the beaches and cross the terrain in order to keep us free. Thank you for all you have done in service to our country and your continued support of the Military Officer's

Association of America Bakersfield Chapter. Together we will ensure that those that come after us are assured of the highest level of gratitude that we can provide from a grateful but sometimes forgetful nation.

Best Regards,

Mike Grover, CDR, USN
President, MOAA, Bakersfield Chapter



Dinner Meeting Location & Speaker

Date: Monday, September 19, 2011
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: **Hodel's Country Dining**
5917 Knudsen Drive
Bakersfield, CA

Tri Tip cost is \$20.00

Stan Schwartz speaking on his experience with the **Flying Tigers**.

Entertainment "Sweet Adelines"

MEMBERSHIP & PROGRAMS REPORT

This report is a joint effort because membership and programs are necessarily intertwined in order to provide growth within the Chapter.

The Membership Committee is working on plans to make our dinner meetings more fun and informative and will hopefully encourage those members we have not recently heard from to attend our next dinner meeting. Our dinner meetings are a time for camaraderie, good food and an update on future chapter activities and plans. The next dinner meeting will be held at Hodel's Country Dining on Monday, September 19th at 1800 hrs (6:00pm).

So what's in the pipeline for our Chapter?

The September 19th dinner meeting, again scheduled for Hodels, will feature as our guest speaker, **Stan Schwartz**. Stan will share his thoughts and experiences when he was assign to the Flying Tigers.

We plan to have some entertainment. Come ready for some fun. As I hope you can see, the chapter has a number of different activities on its plate and is looking forward to having all of you who have been away for awhile and those who have not, to join us and lend a helping hand to all of our military brothers and sisters. We have a number of different committees and positions where we could use your help. Everyone is invited to join a committee that interests them – we need your suggestions and ideas. See you at the September 19th Dinner meeting, or give us a call with any questions or thoughts at either of the phone numbers noted below.

Membership Chairman: COL Gordon Fisher, 834-7653
Program Chairman: LCDR Wayne Wright, 399-2517





201 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

MOAA Answers Your Questions

The recent talk regarding military retirement reform has caused a spike in questions to MOAA's Member Service Center. We try to answer some of the most common concerns from our members:

Q. I'm already retired. Will military retirement reform affect me?

A. Even the most ambitious retirement reform proposals being discussed at this point wouldn't cut retirement payments to current retirees. But this is just the beginning of what could be many rounds of deep budget cuts. We can't say with certainty that military retirees have nothing to be concerned about.

In fact, one threat that we'll almost certainly face in the near future is cuts to the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). See more on this threat below.

Q. Will I receive a COLA this year?

A. Most likely. COLA currently stands at 3.3% for the year. Barring an economic collapse over the next two months retirees and survivors will be in line to see a COLA increase in 2012. But pressure to produce budget savings will likely lead Congress to consider lowering or freezing COLAs at some point in the near future. They've done it before during the budget crunch of the 1990s.

There are already discussions of changing the formula used to calculate COLA to the Chain Weighted CPI (C-CPI-U). This would effectively lower COLAs by about 0.25% annually. They could also look to dust off previous budget saving initiatives like freezing COLAs entirely, delaying COLAs until age 60, or implementing a "COLA minus 1%" policy in which the adjustment is artificially lowered to save money.

All of these would seriously damage a retiree's purchasing power over time and MOAA will staunchly oppose any degradation of COLA.



Remembering September 11

Ten years ago this Sunday, in a few surreal hours, all of the feelings of safety and security we took for granted as privileges of American citizenship were stripped from us. And in the wake of the shocking events of September 11, 2001, we were told – and fully believed – that everything had changed; that our lives would never be the same again. Ten years after 9/11, though, most Americans are living their lives very much the way they did before the attacks.

There is, however, one dramatic exception. The events of 9/11 have made an almost unimaginable impact on the lives of more than 2 million U.S. military members and their families. Since Operation Enduring Freedom began on October 7, 2001, more than 6,000 brave soldiers – husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters – have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Another 33,000 have been wounded, many permanently.

According to military historians, this generation of American soldiers is quietly making history, serving in combat longer than almost any other in the nation's past. The cycles of combat have been so long and so frequent that thousands of soldiers have now spent three to four cumulative years at war in Iraq or Afghanistan. The mental toll that this grind has taken not only on our troops, but on family members forced to continuously confront the possibility that their loved one may not return from their next tour, is difficult to overstate.

So as we all take a moment on Sunday to reflect on the fact that ten years have passed since that day of still incomprehensible American loss, let us not forget to honor the courage of our troops and the heroic sacrifices they have made in defense of our freedoms since 9/11. They are the embodiment of the American Spirit.

As Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at an emotional ceremony at the Pentagon Memorial last year, "Unspeakable carnage was visited upon us here, but it did not conquer us. Unimaginable loss was felt by us here, but it does not diminish us. Let us weep for what lies behind us. Let us honor what lies in front of us. But let us remember always what lies inside of us."



J. Scott Spiker
Chief Executive Officer
First Command Financial Services, Inc.

Pretty good disclaimer I got in an email, I thought I would share this perspective. RV

WELCOME TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....Please remember only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you..... JESUS CHRIST and the AMERICAN SOLDIER. One died for your soul, the other for your freedom.

**2011 Remembrance of Heroes
in celebration of Memorial Day**



**Commander Mike Grover, U.S. Navy
President, MOAA, Bakersfield Chapter**



**The MOAA Memorial at Cal State Bakersfield's
Twenty-One Tree Grove**



**Special Thanks to the Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard,
of Bakersfield High School**



**Mrs. Harold Ryan, Mrs. Jack Randolph and Commander Wayne Wright, USN (Ret)
assisting with Placing of the Commemorative Wreath.**



**Major Bob Otto, USAF (RET), Lieutenant Commander Rene Villarreal, MSC, USN (RET) and
CWO2 Tony Ennis, USA, with the Roll Call and Bell Ringing of our Departed Comrades.**

Our Dinner Meeting Speaker



Stan Schwartz he will speak of his experiences during his assignment with the Flying Tigers.



See You At The Dinner



ENTERTAINMENT: Eleanor Winfrey was able to get the Retired Singing group "Sweet Adelines" from Bakersfield to perform 3-4 songs for us. They will perform 3 songs and take a request for a 4th (Battle Hymn of the Republic - a Patriotic tribute). Dinner is at Hodel's in the Kern Room Cost \$20.00 per person.

ASSOCIATED VETERANS OF KERN COUNTY AND MILITARY RITES

The Associated Veterans of Kern County are a group of volunteer veterans from local veterans organizations who perform the Military Rites for local deceased honorably discharged veterans should his or her next of kin so desire. There is no charge for these services, however the Associated Veterans do accept donations to help defray the cost of "spent shell blocks with engravings, uniform shirts, belts, gloves, etc." None of these funds can go to any of the

Military Rites consist of three items, first the three volleys by the rifle detail followed by Taps, then the folding and presentation of the flag. These are a tradition that go back many years. The "three volleys" originates from the European dynastic wars, where the fighting ceased with the first three volleys so the dead and wounded could be removed from the battlefield, and with the second three volleys the fighting would resume. The tune Taps is actually a variation of an earlier bugle call "Tattoo" which was used in the U.S. from 1835 to Civil War days for "Lights Out" and the "bedding down" of the troops. General Butterfield felt this bugle call was too long and without feeling so requested his bugler Oliver Norton to play a new twenty-four note tune that the General, his aid and bugler had devised, instead of Tattoo on that Sunday evening. The soldiers liked it as did other regiments who made requests for the music and began using it. Soon Confederate buglers were also playing the new version. As for flag folding, some sources say it began during the Revolutionary War where the tri-fold configuration came about because of the size of the flags being used aboard ships, another source stated the use of the flag to drape the dead service personnel when they ran out of caskets, and then were buried at sunset.

As of this date April, 2011 the Associated Veterans of Kern County have performed Military Rites for 104 veterans at local cemeteries and the Bakersfield National Cemetery. The peak year was 2006 when 464 services were conducted locally.



TAPS

Regret that we received notice that Mrs. Constance Stinemeyer, Honorary member, has passed away.

Please keep her family, and all those who are serving their country during these current times, in our thoughts and prayers.



“Heavenly Father, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their Families for the selfless acts they perform for us in this our time of need. These things I humbly ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.”



**See You At The
Dinner**

**MOAA, Bakersfield Chapter
Reservations for Monday, May 16, 2011**

Cost per person is \$20.00

Please print

Name of Member: _____ \$ _____

Name of Spouse: _____ \$ _____

Guests: How many? _____ \$ _____

Guest Name (s): _____

Donation to our Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Donation to our Memorial Fund \$ _____

Make Check Payable to: **MOAA, Bakersfield Chapter** **TOTAL: \$** _____

Mail this form and check for TOTAL amount to:

**MOAA, Bakersfield Chapter Treasurer
P.O. BOX 11853
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389**

Deadline for mailing reservations is Friday, 16 September.

You may RSVP with Mrs. Shizuko Olson at 661-589-5459. Payments will also be accepted at the door.