



COASTAL CLARION

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
P.O. Box 5002, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-5002



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IN THIS
ISSUE:

- > President's Message
- > Debt Commission Finalized
- > Medicare & Tricare Info
- > May Luncheon Reservation
- > New Members
- > Vets Unemployment
- > ROTC Fund Contributors
- > 3rd Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon Information

May Meeting

WHAT: Luncheon

WHEN: Friday, May 14, 2010; Social Hour 11:30 a.m., Dine 12:15 p.m.

WHERE: Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo

PROGRAM: ROTC Awards

MENU: Chef's Choice Entree, Salad, Dessert, Coffee or Tea

DRESS: Business Casual; Uniform always encouraged

COST: See Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Members & Friends:

We had a delightful luncheon last month as Molly Reeves and her Zipsee Swing Band entertained us with musical numbers of years past. My thanks to Ken Chapman for suggesting this wonderful and talented group. For those who missed it, we are trying to get them to do an encore for us at our annual BBQ at Atascadero Lake in June, so make plans to attend! You will be glad you did.

On another note, I would like to thank each of you for being so responsive in mailing in your annual membership dues. We were just blown away to see the mailbox jammed with over 80 responses in less than a week after the dues reminder letters were mailed out. You all deserve a big pat on the back and it speaks magnificently of the general character of our membership and of our organization. I am truly honored to be a part of such a loyal and dedicated organization.

Finally, I look forward to seeing everyone at our luncheon on 14 May. We will be honoring the top ROTC Cadets with our annual awards made possible by your generous contributions. See you then.

John Gong, President

DEBT COMMISSION FINALIZED

Recently, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced the last three appointments to the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

The Commission will scrutinize all government spending - to include Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, federal/military retirement, and other defense and veteran programs, with the goal of reducing the federal deficit as well as producing options for revenue increases.

The commission is tasked to deliver its recommendations by December 1. That could prove a challenge as 14 of the 18 members must agree on all official commission recommendations. Given the disparity of views among the members, that kind of consensus may be difficult to achieve.

(Continued on page 3)



Molly Reeves and the Zipsee Swing Band wowing our members at last month's luncheon.



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MEDICARE & TRICARE 21% CUT FIXED—UNTIL JUNE

Congress can act fast when it absolutely has to, and it absolutely had to on April 15 - the last day Medicare could avoid imposing a 21% cut in payments to doctors that many doctors say would cause them to stop seeing Medicare and military patients.

Within the space of five hours, the Senate voted to defer the 21% cut until June 1. Because that was a month longer delay than the House proposed, House leaders greased another vote to approve the longer delay, and the bill was rushed to the White House so President Obama could sign it into law that night.

The cuts technically went into effect on April 1, but Medicare exercised its authority to hold claims for up to 10 business days, in anticipation that Con-

gress would approve the delay. Still, the fact is that this is one more can-kicking exercise.

Now, legislators will try to figure out a way to push back the cuts until the end of the year, and next year they'll have to go through a new drill to avoid a 25% cut in January 2011. The constant battles on this issue stem from the inability of Congress to agree on how to pay for the \$240 billion permanent fix. More and more legislators are insisting it should be paid for by cutting other spending. But finding a package of \$240 billion in spending cuts that a majority of legislators would vote for is an equally daunting challenge.

Needless to say, this isn't a trivial issue. Hill leaders simply must find a way to get past this problem so seniors and military beneficiaries aren't being held hostage to monthly threats of having their health care access cut off.

MAY LUNCHEON

Reservations: Mail to **Central California Coast Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 5002, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-5002**. Please mail your reservations to arrive on or before **Monday, May 10, 2010**. Phone **Bob Mellema at 440-1708** for late changes. Late changes may, or may not, be able to be accommodated. You may be billed for reservations made and not cancelled.

Name _____

____ No. for Luncheon X \$17 = \$ _____

____ No. of Vegetarian Meal(s)

My Check # _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

ROTC Awards Fund \$ _____ (separate check please) My Check # _____
Make all checks payable to "CCCC MOAA"

DEBT COMMISSION (Continued from page 1)

The 1994-95 commission couldn't reach consensus, but that didn't stop individual members from pursuing their proposals in Congress.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

CDR Harald Bauer & wife, Margi; COL (Ret) John Whitworth & wife, Jan; and 1LT (Ret) Charles Ward & wife, Barbara, from Atascadero.

MAJ Frank Francioni & wife, Joan from Paso Robles.

LTC (Ret) Robert Higginbotham & wife, Shelly, from Pismo Beach.

VADM (Ret) William Bowes & wife, Dolores; MAJ (Ret) David Shipman & wife, Bernita; and CW4 (Ret) Gordon Domingues & wife, Stella, from Morro Bay.

LTC (Ret) Donald Cone & wife, Doris, from Los Osos.

LTC (Ret) Sanford Cook & wife, Trish, from San Luis Obispo.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Lt. Cmdr. Ted Reinhardt
Lt. Leon Tackitt
Aux. Nancy Watson
Maj. John Baird
Lt. Cmdr. Lyle Tyler
Cmdr. Jerry Lemoine
Col. Bruce Lindsay
Col Art Kishiyama
Cmdr. Gerre Voden
Lt. Cmdr. Tom Robins

Lt. Col. Gene Finley
Col. Fred Tama
Maj. Fred Toerge
Lt. Col. Walt Schob Jr.
Lt. Col. Bob Mellema
Maj. Sam Calkins
Carol Grosse
Cmdr. Jim Reilly

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Col. Joe Bretting and Betty
1stLt. Les Meyer and Dorothy
Cmdr. Bill Hopper Jr. and Mary Anne
Lt. Leon Tackitt and Cindy
Cmdr. Bob and Capt. Margaret Moynihan
Col. Ron Staib and Martha
Col. George and Maj. Rita Gruner

One in Three Young Vets Now Unemployed

Disturbing new statistics from the Labor Department show that one in three veterans under age 24 is unemployed and that the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans has jumped to 14.7 percent, half as high again as the national employment rate of 9.7 percent. The unemployment rate for veterans of all ages was 9.8 percent in March, nearly identical to the national rate. Justin Brown, a labor expert for Veterans of Foreign Wars, said that marks a deployment decline for veterans, who for the last two years were more likely to be employed than nonveterans. Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' unemployment rate was 14.7 percent in March, compared with 10.7 percent a year ago. Veterans groups are pushing the federal government, which recently launched a program to boost hiring of veterans for federal jobs, to do more to help veterans find work in the private sector.



Our Chapter welcomes a new member, Chief Warrant Officer Gordon Domingues (in the foreground) at April's luncheon.

ROTC AWARDS FUND

Following is a cumulative list of the names of those who have made tax-deductible contributions to the ROTC Awards Fund during calendar year 2010. If we've missed anyone, please contact the Treasurer.

Allen Benson	Joyce Humphreys
Daniel Biezd	Jack Jones
John Clendenen	Arthur Kane
Robert Dietrich	William Lindsay
Donald Erickson	William Long
John Gong	Les Meyer
Norman Harry	John Mirolla
James Hawkins	Mary Ellen Ogden
La Verne Hawkinson	Coral Smith
Bill Hopper	Frederick Tama
William Houston	Newell Terrill



Your Executive Committee hard at work!

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MARK YOUR 2010-11 CALENDAR

**Note: All meetings will be at the Madonna Inn
unless otherwise noted**

Dates to Remember

May 4 ExCom Meeting
May 9 Mother's Day
May 10 Luncheon Reservations Due
May 14 MOAA ROTC Awards Luncheon
May 15 Armed Forces Day
May 28 3rd Annual Vet's Recognition Luncheon
May 30 Memorial Day
May 31 Memorial Day Observed
Jun 1 ExCom Meeting
Jun 7 Picnic Reservations Due
Jun 12 Chapter Picnic

**Assemblyman Blakeslee Invites You to the 3rd Annual
Veterans Recognition Luncheon**

Special luncheon honors local veterans and celebrates dedication of local Highway

Highway 101 will soon be decorated with 10 memorial signs designating the highway as part of the National Purple Heart Trail. Assemblyman Blakeslee authored ACR 12, formally commemorating a 115 mile portion of the State Highway as a tribute to Purple Heart recipients, reminding our community of the incredible sacrifice so many courageous men and women have given to our great country. Assemblyman Blakeslee invites you to celebrate the dedication of the Purple Heart Trail and to honor the local military and veteran community at a special luncheon in May. The luncheon will pay special honor to the contributions of our service men and women.

What: 3rd Annual 33rd Assembly District Veteran Recognition Luncheon
Special recognition of local veteran organizations and members

When: Friday, May 28, 2010, 12 noon – 2pm

Where: Mitchell Park, 1400 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, 93401

A catered BBQ luncheon will be free of cost to all veterans in uniform. Members of the community are also welcome to attend with a suggested donation of \$10. All money raised will go toward Purple Heart Trail signage costs. If you would like to receive more information concerning this event please contact Assemblyman Blakeslee's district office at (805) 549-3381.