



SOLANO COUNTY CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lynn Snyder, Major USAR (Ret)



Once again, 365 days and another year is history. Christmas and New Years have come and gone. I trust all enjoyed the Holidays and that Santa was good to all. Even with the little chunk he left for me, I still got more than I deserved. Spending Christmas with family members from all corners of the U.S. and enjoying a most delightful, quiet and safe New Year's eve with my wife ended the year

just perfect.

The official year for the Chapter came to a close with the installation of Chapter Officers and Directors on December 15th. The objective for our holiday meeting was to avoid any formal business and simply have a relaxing and enjoyable social gathering. I sincerely hope we were successful. And, the next time, for those of you who may visit WalMart, don't forget to ask the senior greeter if he was on time for work.

It appeared all present enjoyed the day. Although Christmas customs were mentioned, the highlight of the gathering was the video, "A Soldier's Christmas" presented by Ike Kostal, our new VP-Programs. The video truly and clearly reflect the roles and devotion of our service men and women, their trials and tribulations, and their willingness to give all they can for the safety and security of our country.

I've had a number of "most favorable comments" about our November speaker – Ted Puntillo, Chief Veterans Service Officer , Solano County. For those who were present, I am sure you will agree it was one of our best presentations this year, especially since the information dispersed has a direct relevance to all classes of veterans. It certainly is gratifying that we have a passionate and dedicated veteran leader, who attempts to assure every veteran and their family are made aware of all benefits to which they may be entitled and are served with dignity and respect.

We're beginning a new year, thus a few important subjects need veering from the more fun subjects:

1. To our way of thinking, 2011 has been a productive and enjoyable year. However, it still seems we are struggling with becoming an active chapter. MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs continually emphasizes that for a chapter to be successful it must be an active chapter. I keep asking – are we an active or a social chapter that just relies on social gatherings? To be an active chapter entails being involved in the communities in our catchment area. From my perspective we are slowly emerging toward active status.. To be a truly active chapter it takes each and everyone of us to be involved and expose Solano County Chapter MOAA to Travis AFB and surrounding communities..

Continued on next page

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Travis Conference Center, Travis AFB
Thursday, 26 January, 2012

Social: 1115 hours Lunch: 1215 hours

Speaker: Col. John Flornoy,
Commander, 349 AMW, Reserve

MENU

Iceberg Lettuce Wedge w/ Blue Cheese,
Red Onions and Tomatoes

Tenderloin of Beef with Mushrooms
Asparagus Sauté

Cheddar Chive Mashed Potatoes
Or

Snapper Vera Cruz

Chipotle Spinach w/ Cilantro
Brown Rice

Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter
Rainbow Sherbet

Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water

DBC Member \$23.00 Mon-DBC Member \$25.00

Thursday, 23 February, 2012

Social 1115 hours Lunch 1215 hours

Speaker: TBA

MENU

Mixed Baby Lettuce w/ Croutons, Goat Cheese,
Tomatoes, and Cucumbers

Asian Salmon

Baby Bok Choy and Vegetables
Fried Rice

Or

BBQ Brisket of Beef

Baked Beans

Cole Slaw

Mac and Cheese

Corn Bread and Rolls and Butter

Cherry Cobbler

Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water

DBC Member \$16.00 Non-DBC Member \$18.00

NOTE: IF YOU MUST CANCEL BECAUSE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR CALLER OR PHYLLIS CRAIG, 707-425-1332 BEFORE 1700 HOURS THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING. MEMBERS WHO FAIL TO CANCEL WILL BE BILLED FOR THE COST OF THE MEAL.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Major Lynn Snyder, USAR-Ret 925-370-6088
lsn1508330@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT—Membership

Major Dennis Cooper USAF-Ret 446-8689
dcooper@systron.com

VICE PRESIDENT—Programs

Major Yaroslav “Ike” Kostal USAF Ret
Latsok@att.net ???-????

SECRETARY

Lt Col Jacqueline S. Rock USAFR Ret 422-6651
jsrockmsn@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Lt Col G. Ray Schoch USAF-Ret 448-5290
grschoch@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Lt. Col. Tom DiGiorgio USAF-Ret 446-3460
Tdigior536@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Captain Jack Anthony USA-Ret 530-756-0403

Lt Col George S “Buck” Buchanan USAF-Ret 446-2825
phantomb2@aol.com

Lt Col Philip Edelman USAF-Ret 426-3304

Col Earl Heal USAF-Ret 446-1353

Helearlniki@att.net

Lt Col Bernice Kaylin USAF-Ret 448-1715

bearniece@sbcglobal.net

Lt Col Michael Barber USAF-Ret 447-2890

MikeyBarber@Aol.com

CHAIRS

Editor/Publisher VACANT

Finance: Lt Col Bernice Kaylin USAF-Ret 448-1715

Health Care Advisory Council Reps:

Lt Col Bernice Kaylin & Mrs. Myrtle Black

Legislative Affairs:

Mrs. Lenister “Leni” King Auxiliary 469-7105

leniking@earthlink.com

Officers Club Representative:

Captin Jack Anthony USA-Ret ???-????

Outreach/Sunshine:

Mrs. Betty St George AUX 421-0783

Personal Affairs

Col Alan C. Smith USAF-Ret 447-5255

Provost Marshal:

Lt Col Philip Edelman USAF-Ret 426-3304

lcolphil@aol.com

Public Relations

Col Larry Johnson, USAF-Ret 226-8846

Reservations:

Mrs Phyllis Craig, AUX 425-1332

Retiree Activities Rep:

Lt Col Phillip Edelman 426-3304

Scholarship Committee:

Col Earl H. Heal USAF-Ret 446-1353

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Presidents Report continued from page 1

2. What can you do to help each committee chair be more proficient in achieve the mandates of the committee they head? In many instances, one hour a month or less is all that it asked.

3. If you have any suggestion for Programs or “the good of the chapter” please give we a call.

Our January Board of Directors should be a very interesting and challenging event. Chapter goals and objectives for 2012 are to be established; lots of ideas, thoughts and suggestions have been received and will be presented. The primary outcome is that we establish rationale and reasonable goals that will serve the interests and needs of the general membership, a balance of active and social, promote recognition internally and externally, and expand the scholarship program.

See you at the luncheon January 26, 2012 at the Zone, Travis AFB.

PROGRAMS



As the incoming new VP for Programs, I'd like to introduce myself and share some thoughts about the types of programs and activities we, the Solano County Chapter, may consider this year. My name is Ike Kostal- USAF O-4 retired. I retired from the Air Force after a 20-year career where

I served as a pilot (KC-135, C-130, and T-39, and an assorted smattering of other aircraft), with supplemental assignments in the field of Intelligence, and with the USAF Special Operations School, Hurlburt Field, FL. I then spent the next 22 years working as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense (US Air Force, US Navy, and DIA) in a variety of Intelligence-related functions. One of the most interesting jobs was serving in a liaison capacity with the US Coast Guard, working on Maritime and Port Security issues relating to Homeland Defense.

Having joined our MOAA chapter some six months ago, I am fairly new to our organization. I will be depending on you, Chapter members, for your inputs on the types of programs and activities you would like to see this coming year. The goal is to foster a broader participation and more active involvement by our members.

One of the main functions under "Programs" is to schedule guest speakers for the monthly luncheons/dinners. I will strive to invite speakers with interesting stories pertinent to all - - the long-time members as well as the younger, active duty and recently retired members. I'm working on a theme of "evolving aspects of combat experience," contrasting the battlefield challenges faced by our combat veterans starting with World War II, all the way to the present technologically driven war fighting techniques in the Middle East. But we are not limited to this topic alone. I strongly solicit your inputs, ideas, and suggestions on other topics or specific speakers you would like to recommend. If you know anyone who can speak on a particular topic you would like to hear, or want to invite a past guest speaker, let me know. After all its what you- members- are interested in that matters. I'll do my best to build the program around your collective interests.

Other possible Chapter activities may include fundraisers such as a golf tournament or a Chapter-wide Garage Sale aimed at raising funds for the Chapter or for our scholarship drive. Please share your thoughts with me on these or similar other concepts, if you are interested. I can be reached via e-mail at: latsok@att.net. Looking forward to working together this coming year.

JANUARY SPEAKER

COLONEL JOHN C. "JAY" FLOURNOY JR.



Colonel John "Jay" C. Flournoy, Jr., is the commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif. He leads the largest Reserve Associate Wing in the Air Force, which provides combat ready crews and support for the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, and KC-10 Extender aircraft. The wing also provides expeditionary support to the war fighter in all aspects

of air base security and operation. In addition, the wing provides medical care throughout the Area of Responsibility and the patient transportation process.

Colonel Flournoy entered the Air Force in 1986 as a graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. While on active duty the colonel served as a B-52 pilot and T-37 instructor pilot. He joined the Air Force Reserve in 1991 as an HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter pilot and became an Air Reserve Technician in 1994. He served as commander at the group level at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis. and Al Al Salem Air Base, Southwest Asia. His staff assignments include serving as Chief, Reserve Rescue, Special Operations Forces and Bomber Operations and Requirements and Chief, Reserve Studies and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force as well as Director, Intelligence, Air, Space and Information Operations, Headquarters 22nd Air Force. Prior to his current assignment, he was Commander of the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott AFB, Ill.

Membership DUES TIME AGAIN

This constitutes the second of the mandatory three Notices that must be provided before a member can be dropped from the rolls. This qualifies as a formal notice because the Newsletter is sent to all members. Don't forget to check the address label on the Newsletter. If it shows XX after your City and Zip Code, that means You are not current. Dues for 2012 have yet to be paid. If 2012, 2013 or higher year appears, you are current.

Please help by sending you dues in ASAP. This will assure you will continue to receive the Chapter Newsletter. Dues cover a majority of Chapter operational expenses and help off-set publication and mailing expenses of the Newsletter. At present, the chapter is operating from a slight deficit. This is not acceptable and needs to be rectified ASAP.

As of the first publication of the Chapter Newsletter for 2012, we still have 118 members that have not paid their dues for 2012. According to our By Laws :all remaining members that have not paid dues by March 1, will be dropped.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES – WE WOULD HATE TO LOSE YOU.

AUXILIARY CORNER

by Karin Manning

Remarriage after the loss of a spouse involves many considerations, especially the affect it will have on the surviving spouse's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Remember these points when deciding to remarry:

- 1) Remarriage before age 55 results in suspension of SBP.
- 2) Remarriage before age 57 results in suspension of DIC.
- 3) Remarriage before age 55 results in suspension of both SBP and DIC. When remarriage occurs after age 55 but before age 57, resulting in the loss of DIC, a surviving spouse may have SBP reinstated to the full amount by repaying DoD the SBP premium amount refunded when DIC initially was awarded. Repayments may be made in a lump sum without interest or in installments with interest based on the interest rate in effect at that time. If the remarriage at any age ends in death or divorce, the surviving spouse may apply for reinstatement of the SBP and DIC.
- 4) Remarriage after age 57 allows receipt of both SBP and DIC.

Recently, several survivors won a court case to restore full SBP and DIC upon remarriage after the age of 57. Be aware DoD requires full repayment of SBP premiums plus interest. (Original refunds of SBP premiums were without interest and fully taxable to the surviving spouse.)

Legislation (H.R. 178 and S. 260) has been introduced to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset and recoupment of refunded SBP premiums upon the surviving spouse's remarriage. Present law penalizes surviving spouses if they remarry before or after age 57.

TRICARE, commissary, and burial rights are lost upon remarriage at any age. While most benefits can be reinstated when the remarriage ends in death or divorce, TRICARE, once lost, cannot be reinstated.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Col Earl Heal, Chairman

The Scholarship Committee can close the year with good news—both financially and for student progress. The financial account was a bit deficient for making the payment toward this year's awards, but several recent and generous donations put it over the top. Contributors this year have been Michael Barber, Patricia Benacquista, Harry Black, James Blohm, Patricia Brausch, Delsa Brown, Buck Buchanan, Juanita Carbonaro, Richard Carter, William Chadwick, Irving Cockroft, John Dawson, Richard Denay, Jacquelin Draves, Roosevelt Franklin, Julian Grabski, Marjorie Graves, Geraldine Gudebski, Ruby Hardy, Charles Harris, Roy Hollins, William House, Larry Johnson, Brian Jonas, Russell Jones, Claire Joyce, Bernice Kaylin, Robert Lambertson, Robert McCoy, Herbert Neilson, Jacqueline Rock, Betty St. George, Phyllis Schmall, Ray Schoch, Robert Skinner, Lynn Snyder, Edward Stahl, John Takeuchi, Jett Thomas, Richard Tinnucci, and Clare Wright and all who participate in the monthly raffle. Special recognition is given to Clare Wright for her contribution of five hundred dollars.

Scholarship recipients of 2011 are each progressing as planned. Larissa Thornton of Fairfield is attending San Francisco State for nursing and commuting to Berkley for ROTC. Daniel Keeling of Vanden is attending UC-Davis for engineering. The 2010 class are in their sophomore year and include Ben Shen (Rodriquez) at Coast Guard Academy, Melanie Divera (Armijo) at Sac State, Kendall Ruona (Buckingham) at Solano Community College, Paul Villegas (Armijo) at UC-Davis, and Fernando Barnados (Armijo) at Sac State. **Melanie is in her second year of ROTC and is bidding for ROTC summer camp next June, but, unlike previous years, summer camp and advanced ROTC are competitively awarded and not assured for the asking.**

The class of 2007 has nearly completed their education goals. Lt. Courtney Vidt is currently in pilot training at Vance AFB, OK, Kathleen Santos will get her degree next spring, and Darrel Rocca will get his commission from the Air Force Academy in June and will enter pilot training thereafter. Darrel attended AF preparatory school for his first year, but his completion of five years confirmed our decision that his attitude would carry him through.

The Scholarship Committee and President Snyder have a goal of \$4,000 for the coming year to recognize the increasing college costs. The recipients are very appreciative of our member's contributions.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By “Leni” King, Auxiliary

The House and Senate have passed the final FY 2012 Defense Authorization Act, and the President is expected to sign it. This action averted a government shutdown, and it insures that the government will continue to be funded through the rest of the fiscal year.

MOAA and the Military Coalition submitted a letter to the senate leaders, and at least one of the provisions requested was included in the legislation. It prohibits denial of reenlistment based on a medical condition that a medical board has evaluated and deemed as not disqualifying for continued duty.

Other provisions included in the legislation include:

- Authorizing a 1.6 percent military pay raise.
- Limiting the percentage increase in TRICARE prime enrollment fee in any year to the percentage growth in military pay.
- Enhancing authority to call up the Reserves for certain missions.
- Authorizing early retirement and voluntary separation incentives to reduce the need for involuntary separations during the coming force reductions.
- Establishing the Chief of the National Guard Bureau as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Providing \$45M in assistance for civilian schools in which military dependents are enrolled.
- Enhancing the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program for wounded warriors and their families.
- Safeguarding reemployment rights for Guard members ordered to full-time duty under state orders.
- Authorizing a death gratuity and related benefits for Reserves who die during an authorized stay at their residence during, or between successive days of inactive duty training.
- Requiring GAO to review effectiveness of programs aimed at promoting military spouse employment.
- Requiring GAO to review effects of extending space-available travel eligibility to certain survivors and gray area reserve retirees.
- Requiring a DoD report on the cost of expanding the Homeowner Assistance Program to help more service members who are “up-side-down” on their mortgages.

Once again, a provision to eliminate deduction of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) was not included in the legislation. DIC is an amount awarded, by the Veteran’s Administration, to widows(ers) whose spouse’s deaths were service-connected. Also, preventing the 1 January, 27% reduction in Medicare and TRICARE payments to physicians was omitted. This could result in reduced access for healthcare services for both military and TRICARE beneficiaries.

Beginning 1 January, dependents under age 26 may begin enrolling in TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) coverage. However, in addition to meeting the age requirement, he/she must be unmarried and ineligible for any employer-sponsored health care coverage. TYA will provide TRICARE Prime coverage. The monthly premium will cost approximately \$201.00 for each beneficiary.

NEW MEMBERS:

LtCol David LeRoy, USAF
LtCol Heath Wimberly, USAF
CPT Anne Amigleo, USAF
CPT Noelle Morra, USAF-former

ROW

The Retired Officers’ Wives Club will meet at 11 AM on 10 January, 2012 at the Delta Breeze Club. If you plan to attend please call please call Myrtle Black at 1-530-795-3804

SOLANO COUNTY CHAPTER
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Chapter dues are payable by January 1 of each year--\$20.00 for regular members,\$9.00 for auxiliary members (widows and widowers). Widows of life members assume that status and are not therefore required to pay dues. Note that Chapter dues are separate and distinct from National MOAA dues and are for each calendar year.

Use this form for making your payment(s). Make checks to:

Treasurer, SCC, MOAA, PO Box 1443, Travis AFB, CA 94535-0443

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of
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Also enclosed is a donation \$ _____ for the Scholarship Fund.

Name _____ Rank & Service _____

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