

# The Military Officer Association of America

## VALLEY-RIDGE CHAPTER



*Serving*  
*Paradise Chico Oroville Magalia*  
*Gridley Durham Orland Willows*

*P.O Box 216, Paradise, CA 95967*



Volume 33

May 2012

No. 5

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:



There was little doubt by January 1945 that the Axis -- Germany, Japan, and Italy-- had lost the war. It was now just a matter of time.

In early 1942 just before the Japanese conquest of the Philippines was complete, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the American commander in the Philippines, General Douglas MacArthur, to Australia. On Corregidor Island, as MacArthur boarded a small patrol torpedo boat at a wharf in Manila Bay, he made the promise to the Philippine people "I SHALL RETURN."

On October 20, 1944, after he had waded ashore from one of the landing craft that had carried troops of the United States Sixth Army onto the beaches of Leyte, ignoring Japanese mortar and sniper fire, MacArthur proclaimed "I HAVE RETURNED."

On January 17, 1945, Soviet troops forced the Germans out of Warsaw, and ten days later liberated the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps, where they found the remains of more than a million people who had been murdered by the Germans.

On January 28, 1945, the Battle of the Bulge, Germany's last ditch attempt to turn the tide of war in Western Europe -- FAILED. The Americans suffered some 75,000 casualties, the Germans nearly 100,000. The Americans recovered from their losses. The Germans had thrown just about all of their reserves into the fight and had no means of recovery. Most historians agree that after the Battle of the Bulge, the Germans had no hope of winning the war.

On April 12, 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the President of the United States, died suddenly. Roosevelt was not quite four months into his fourth term as President. Vice President Harry S. Truman, who had seen Roosevelt only twice since their inauguration, was sworn in as the thirty-third President on the afternoon of Roosevelt's death.

The next morning, Lt. General Leslie Groves, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer in charge of something called the "Manhattan Project" went to Truman in the Oval Office and said, "Mr. President there is something you have to know." He told President Truman what President Roosevelt had felt the former U.S. senator from Missouri should not know. The Manhattan Project had secretly developed a new super weapon, called the "atomic bomb" and two of these devices were available for use.

On April 25, 1945, Major General Isaac Davis White's "Hell on Wheels" Second Armored Division, with its bridges across the Elbe River, was prepared to take Berlin. Ordered to halt in place to permit the Red Army to take Berlin, White, a direct descendant of Isaac Davis, the man who fired "the shot fired around the world" at Concord Green, thus starting the American Revolution, was reported to be so angry he kicked the windows out of his truck-mounted command post.

On April 28, 1945, Benito Mussolini and his mistress were captured by anti-fascist Italian partisans, executed, and then hung upside down from a light pole.

On April 30, 1945, as Soviet troops came close to the "Führer Bunker" in Berlin, Adolph Hitler and Eva Braun, his bride of a few days committed suicide. As soon as Dr. Josef Goebbels had seen that their bodies were burned, the Nazi propaganda minister stood by as his wife fed cyanide capsules to their six children; then he and she bit into their own capsules.

On May 2, 1945, Red Army troops completed the capture of Berlin and the last German troops in Italy surrendered.

On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered unconditionally.

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This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to all the veterans who have faithfully served our country in times of war and peace. We remember them as well as those who are in harm's way at this time. Let us, who have been so well served by our military, remember the sacrifices they made and continue to make. And let us understand that our freedom is a blessing to be appreciated and protected at all costs. Thanks to all our MOAA members who have participated in giving us the priceless gift of freedom.

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## **FREEDOM**

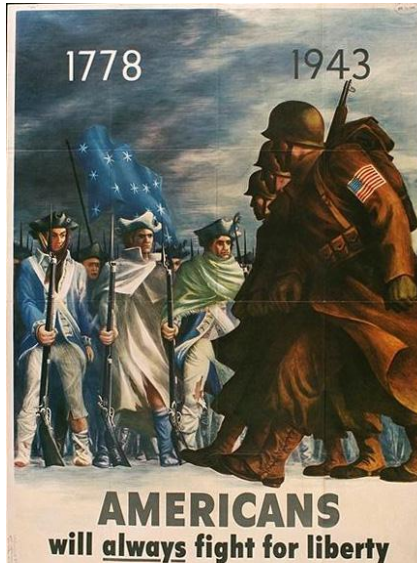
*By Maj. Jay R. Haggard, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam, 1964*

I'm working like hell to get assigned to one of the Squadrons. So far I've managed to fly mostly, but mainly stay out of the A.O.C. The Colonel is People here work long hours. I've had the 24th of February and haven't had feel like I'm doing something important.

One of the biggest fears I have look back, I'll find that I've never really

I have found something here come to the end of my journey, I hope I events inspired by someone such as of S.E. Asia is not worth one American

I think it is. I think freedom is And I've never found "IT" on sale basement". You must go up to the most store. You must pay whatever they ask loud, so that it keeps others awake. You life depends on our determination and



World War II Poster

supposed to make a decision next week. my hold baggage in my hotel room since time to unpack it yet. I like it though. I

in life is that when I get to the end and done anything worthwhile.

that I think is worthwhile. And when I shall not be proven wrong by a chain of Senator Wayne Morris, who said: "ALL boy".

worth whatever you have to pay for it. anywhere. You don't find it in a "bargain expensive floor in life's department for it. You must let it ring day and night, must feed it and care for it because its willingness to sacrifice for it.

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## **AMERICA'S GREATNESS**

In 1831, the government of France sent a well-respected judge, Alexis de Tocqueville, to study the society, the beliefs, and the prisons of the United States of America to find out why there was so little crime and so few prisons. In 1840 he wrote a celebrated book called Democracy in America. Tocqueville wrote about the reasons for America's greatness and the real reason for her low crime rate at that time. He wrote: *"I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests -- and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system and in her institutions of higher learning -- and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution -- and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"*

Tocqueville also wrote: *"The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money."*

In addition he wrote: *"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years."*

QUESTION: How good is America today? What is the status of the crime rate and number of prisons today? Has Congress yet discovered it can bribe the public? Has the public yet discovered that they can vote largesse for themselves by voting for the candidate who promises the most benefits? America's age is a little over 200 years.

**HOW GREAT IS AMERICA TODAY?**

## **WORLD WAR II - PACIFIC THEATER**

### **The Final Major Battle and the Japanese Defeat**

The U.S. had entered World War II after President Roosevelt addressed Congress, December 8, 1941 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7. President Franklin Roosevelt said:



**Dec. 8 Attack on Pearl Harbor**

"The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage...lives have been lost...ships have been reported torpedoed between San Francisco and Honolulu...the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya ... Hong Kong ... Guam...Philippine Islands...Wake Island...and Midway Island."

The attack came as a profound shock to the American people and led directly to the American entry into World War II.

Although the attack on Pearl Harbor was the first battle in a long and bloody war and the one we remember the most, the final battle of the war resulted in the highest number of casualties in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

The largest amphibious attack by the U.S. in the Pacific war began April 1, 1945, when 60,000 U.S. troops landed on the Island of Okinawa.

Continuing for 82 days, the Battle of Okinawa was the last major battle of the Pacific War, and has been called the largest sea-land-air battle in world history.

There were over 72,000 American casualties. Imperial Japan lost over 110,000 men, with nearly 150,000 Okinawan civilian casualties, a third of the population of the island.



**Landing on Okinawa**

A new motivation existed for resistance in the bloody fighting in the Pacific. For the first time, Japan's military machine began defending home territory. Both sides realized that Okinawa, within 350 miles of the southern tip of mainland Japan, would be the stepping-stone for the United States. From Okinawa, the Allies could launch an attack on the mainland by air and by sea.

During the battle of Okinawa Imperial Japanese kamikaze pilots caused the largest loss of ships in U.S. naval history with the sinking of 38 ships and the damaging of another 368.



**Kamikaze Plane Landing on U.S. Ship**

The fierceness of the combat and the destructiveness of the kamikaze attacks led the Navy to expect enormous losses when an invasion was made on the main Japanese islands. This consideration resulted in an alternative strategy -- the dropping of the atomic bomb a few weeks later on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending World War II on August 15, 1945.

## WORLD WAR II - EUROPEAN THEATER

### The Final Major Battle and the German Defeat

• **16 Dec 44 – 25 Jan 45** – **Ardennes Offensive (*Operation Watch on the Rhine*)**. The Germans massed the 6th SS Panzer, 5th Panzer and 7th Armies for a final counter-attack against the Western Allies. Hitler planned to split the US from the British at the lightest defended portion of the American line – the Ardennes (the same location that they concentrated their panzer forces to defeat the French in 1940). This attack would continue to the coast and capture the critical supply port of Antwerp. It became known as the Battle of the Bulge.



• **15-24 Dec 44 – Battle of the Bulge (1)** - Germany attacked and created a ‘bulge’ in the Allied line. As the 1st and 9th Armies were cut off from the 12th Army Group AG (due to the ‘bulge’), command of these two armies shift to the 21st AG.

• **20-21 Dec 44** – 3rd Army displaced from its front lines and reoriented to attack into the southern portion of the ‘bulge’. Patton began his attack on 22 December.

• **26 Dec – 7 Feb 45** – **Battle of the Bulge (2)** - the 12th and 21st AGs pushed the Germans back to their start line.

• **Jan – Apr 45** – The Soviets pushed to the Oder River in the north, followed by attacks in Hungary and Austria in the south.



• **22 Feb – 21 March 45 – Rhineland Campaign**. All Army Groups pushed forward to the Rhine River. By chance, the US 1st Army was able to capture a bridge still intact on 7 March at \***Remagen** and created an unexpected bridgehead on the east side of the Rhine River. (The 1st Army was returned to 12th AG after the Battle of the Bulge)

• **22 & 23 March 45** – The US 3rd and British 2nd Armies conducted river crossings of the Rhine.

• **28 March – 7 May 45** – Attack and occupation of Germany.

The German Army Group B (Model) is captured in the Rhur Pocket. The 15th AG made a final push to capture the rest of Italy; the US 5th and 7th Armies linked up on 4 May.



• **15 Apr – 6 May 45** – Soviets attacked into Eastern Germany and captured Berlin. Hitler committed suicide.

**May 7, 1945** -- Germany surrendered.

\* *Our February 2011 Newsletter had an article from past MOAA member Neil Ruge's unpublished autobiography about his experience crossing the Remagen Bridge. It is very interesting. If anyone would like to read it again, let me know and I'll e-mail you a copy of it. Editor*

## **THE KOREAN WAR**

"If the best minds in the world had set out to find us the worst possible location in the world to fight this damnable war," U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson once said, "the unanimous choice would have been Korea." The peninsula had landed in America's lap almost by accident. Since the beginning of the 20th century, Korea had been a part of the Japanese empire, and after World War II it fell to the Americans and the Soviets to decide what should be done with their enemy's imperial possessions. In August 1945, two aides at the State Department divided the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel, giving the Russians the area north of the line and the United States the south.

The North Korean invasion came as an alarming surprise to American officials. As far as they were concerned, this was not simply a border dispute between two unstable dictatorships on the other side of the globe. Instead, many feared it was the first step in a communist campaign to take over the world. For this reason, nonintervention was not considered an option by many top decision makers. (In fact, in April 1950, a National Security Council report known as NSC-68 had recommended that the United States use military force to "contain" communist expansionism anywhere it seemed to be occurring, "regardless of the intrinsic strategic or economic value of the lands in question.")

"If we let Korea down," President Harry Truman said, "the Soviet[s] will keep right on going and swallow up one [place] after another." The fight on the Korean peninsula was a symbol of the global struggle between east and west, good and evil. As the North Korean army pushed into Seoul, the United States readied its troops for a war against communism itself.



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### **Vought F4U-4B "Corsair" Fighters,**

October, 1950, prepare for launching aboard USS *Philippine Sea* during strikes on North Korean targets. Note small bombs, with fuse extensions, on the wings.



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### **USS Missouri**

Fires a salvo of 16-inch shells from turret #2 while bombarding Chongjin in an effort to cut enemy communications, October 1950.



Photo # NH 96876 Marines landing at Inchon, 15 September 1950

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### **Inchon Invasion, September 1950**

1st Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez, USMC, leads the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines over the seawall on the northern side of Red Beach, as the second assault wave lands. Wooden scaling ladders are in use to facilitate disembarkation from the LCPV that brought these men to the shore. Lt. Lopez was killed in action within a few minutes, while assaulting a North Korean bunker.



Photo # 80-G-426009 Operating a winch on USS Mockingbird, off Korea, 1950

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### **Korean War Minesweeping, November 1950**

Crewman operates a winch on board USS *Mockingbird* during mine clearance operations off Wonsan, North Korea.

## THE VIETNAM WAR

### **"Duty With The Mobile Riverine Force" by Capt. Bob Kermen From David Bruhn's Book, Wooden Ships and Iron Men**

River Division 574 was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 11 August at Nha Be, marking the first ACTOV Program turnover of a PBR division. Two weeks later the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force was phased out of existence, with the disestablishment of River Flotilla One, River Support Squadron Seven, and Task Force 117 on 25 August.

Before leaving the subject of the Mobile Riverine Force, it is appropriate to try to give readers a small hint of what such duty entailed. The following account by Capt. Robert J. Kermen, USNR (Ret.), reflects his experience as an enlisted gunner aboard *ATC-112-7* (with River Division 112) from November 1968 until July 1969, when his armored troop carrier was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy. (His boat was actually the second ATC so designated. Its predecessor was mined in the Cua Viet River on 14 March 1968, and was destroyed with six crew members killed and another seriously wounded.):

Kermen writes: "We lived on the boat 24 hours a day. Our bunks were metal frames with canvas stretched across them and an air mattress on top. Food consisted of Korean War-era C-rations and LRRPs, which were dehydrated meals, much like today's MREs. This food was quite good once you developed a taste for it. We carried 20-30 cases of food at all times as well as several hundred gallons of drinking water. Malaria pills and salt tablets were also a necessary part of our diet. Rarely did we eat aboard the ships we tied up to. In theory, we were supposed to berth, eat, and shower aboard the ships, but they were pretty crowded with the Ninth Infantry Division [soldiers] we were supporting. It was just easier to live on the boats.

"The uniforms of the Mobile Riverine Force [personnel] were really used only for special events such as inspections and award presentations. Utility greens were the standard issue. Most of the time we were in dungaree or O.D. shorts with jungle boots or tennis shoes. Going into combat, we donned our flak jackets, flak pants, and helmets. Some sailors even wore bandanas to keep sweat from running into their eyes.

"Some crews tried to individualize the appearance of their boats by adding everything from state flags to Charles Schultz cartoons. Snoopy sitting on his doghouse was common. Sayings such as "Sat Cong" [Kill Communists] appeared as well. Our officers were pretty tolerant to a point; then the hammer would come down and we would repaint the boat.

"Maintenance of our boats was a constant battle in that climate and environment. Rocket hits into the cases of C-rations we carried were constantly covering the sides of our boats with such delicacies as "beef with spice sauce," "fruit cocktail," and "canned ham and eggs" (no loss there!).

"Cooking aboard the boats was interesting as well. While heat tablets were commonly used, some of us used C-4 explosive, which burns hot and very fast. I shudder today when I think of heating up leftovers at home using that method. C-4 was plentiful. We always had a case or two on hand for use by the Army troops we carried. "Our main mission was to carry troops into combat and insert them for search-and-destroy missions against the Viet Cong in the Mekong Delta. We loaded troops directly off the ships and usually landed them shortly after sunrise. The Viet Cong loved to hit us going in because they knew we were carrying troops by our draft. After a while, these ambush points became predictable and were given names by us—Snoopy's Nose, Rocket Alley, and Blood Alley come to mind. Some of these places were located fairly close to our shore base at Dong Tam.

"When we were "off the line," we hauled supplies for the Army, patrolled the Mobile Riverine Base at night, or provided waterborn security for Army artillery barges. All night long, we would steam back and forth lobbing concussion grenades into the water to discourage swimmers. We had a two-boat patrol and alternated this security duty every 4 hours. One of the major disadvantages of this duty was that having the boat in long periods of contact with the riverbank allowed rats to come aboard and share our living quarters. They would hide by day and run around at night. Sometimes, they ran right across your chest while you were sleeping. This provided another form of recreation. We would remove the bullets from our .38 shells and push the case into a bar of soap thus producing a "soap bullet." Great for short range and they did not ricochet.

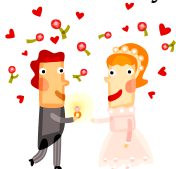
"Every night, just prior to sunset, the whole MRB, consisting of at least six ships, would shift anchor and re-anchor after dark. This was done to prevent the VC from targeting the ships easily.

"During my tour on the rivers, our boat participated in many and varied assignments. Most of the time was spent in the delta; but we did go up to the Parrot's Beak on Operation Giant Slingshot as a support boat for the PBRs. We were stationed at Tra Cu and Go Dau Ha. This was the only place we saw blue, clear water."



### **DID YOU GUESS?**

That this is Capt. Robert Kermen and his wife Katherine. The picture was taken at NIOTC, (Naval Inshore Operations Training Center) at Mare Island Naval Base in November of 1968. Bob had just graduated from Riverine Warfare School and was leaving for Vietnam to serve as a gunner in River Division 112 on the Mekong River. He was a Seaman (E-3) at the time. Kathy and he had just become engaged a week before. They had only dated 2 weeks before the engagement. They've been married 43 years. (Love and commitment will do it every time.)



**BET YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHO THIS IS!**

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### **TREASURER NOTES**

My thanks to all the members for their responses to my request for 2012 chapter dues. I am reporting that we received dues from 83 members including the new members that joined through April 2012. Our challenge now is to bring that number into the nineties to regain ground lost thru 2011. Be on the lookout for potential new members. Check the other organizations each of you are involved with for officers that my want to join us. Extend the invitation yourself or call Bob VanLaan, Membership, for assistance.

On another subject: I have served the chapter as a member and in various Executive Board positions for many years. It is time for a volunteer to step forward and serve as a backup and understudy Treasurer. The job doesn't take a lot of time each month, is easy to learn. The pay is lousy, but the satisfaction of serving my military associates is priceless. Bob Huss, Treasurer

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**Memorial Day Services will be held in the towns in our area on May 28, 2011. Bob Huss will be handling the one in Paradise; Jack Henderson, the one in Oroville; Don Chambers, the one in Chico; and William Wescott, the one in Gridley.**

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – MAY '12

**The Supreme Court.** Are there any of our chapter members or spouses who do not know or understand what the Supreme Court of the United States does? I doubt it.

**The Stolen Valor Act.** As you may be aware, the Supreme Court of the U.S. recently heard oral argument on the constitutionality of this act which prohibits anyone from falsely claiming to have been awarded military awards and decorations. The question is, is such an action protected free speech or not. My thinking is that if someone makes such false claims in order to gain some unearned benefit, then that would be fraud and therefore not protected free speech.

**California State Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).** For any of you who might be interested, CalVet has a website that might be good to check out: [www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov).

**Status of Current Budget Proposals.** As I'm sure all of you are aware, the President and the Department of Defense (DoD) have proposed some budget reductions that may seriously affect our armed forces and hence our national security. The proposals of concern (and current status) are:

- (1) **Force cuts:** Congressional hearings are underway with top concerns being how the cuts will affect current deployments and "dwell time" as well as overall national security. For example, the Army is proposing to cut 70,000 troops in the next five years. Of these, 24,000 would be enlisted "layoffs" and 4000-5000 would be officer "layoffs" (including combat veterans). The remainder would be by attrition.
- (2) **Active duty pay:** Also under review in the hearings, the proposal is to cap military pay raises for three years and then go off the tie to civilian pay increases. After that military pay increases would be limited to a small percentage.
- (3) **Reform military retirement:** A BRAC-like commission is being requested to consider and recommend changes to the retirement system. The only status that I have is that the current draft of the House Defense Authorization bill does not contain any provisions for such a commission. Obviously, this can change.
- (4) **Dramatically raise all TRICARE fees and pharmacy copays:** This one directly impacts MOAA members and is our most serious threat. The proposal has all TRICARE fees and pharmacy copays being raised starting October 1, 2012 (FY 2013) with additional increases over at least the next four years after that. I refer you back to your March 2012 issue of *Military Officer*, page 34, for a complete chart showing these proposed increases. These increases will be tiered (i.e., "means tested" – more on this below) based on your gross retired pay before any VA offsets or former spouse deductions. These increases are being carefully examined in the congressional hearings with some congressmen noting it appears that the administration seems to be expecting the military to shoulder the entire burden of righting our national fiscal ship. Be aware that current law allows DoD to make the pharmacy copay increases unless Congress takes action to stop it. Also, the same draft Defense Authorization bill mentioned in (3) above contains no provisions for increased TRICARE fees. Again, this can change.

**Thoughts on "Means-testing."** Means-testing of health care fees would be unique and discriminatory to the military. No other part of the federal government has their health care fees means-tested, and it is rare in the civilian sector. In essence, it says that the longer and more successfully one serves the less health care benefit one earns or deserves. Said another way, it amounts to a retired pay cut. It says that what you reap will no longer be based on what you earn, but rather on what you need.

**Some General Thoughts on the Budget Proposals.** All of us should keep in mind as we voice our opposition to these proposals that we are not trying to ensure that the military community will take no "hits," but rather we are resisting a disproportional and unfair share of the "hits." We all realize that something has to be done about our national deficit situation, but we feel that this "something" must be shared by the government civilian component as well - with similar and equivalent sharing by them.

As I see it, all of these proposals directly "attack" the incentive package with which we attract qualified and committed people who will want to enter and serve a career in our armed services. This package seems to have been reasonably successful, helped by the economy for the last several years. Even so, only 17% of entrants continue on to a 20-30 year career. If we now weaken this package, what will this do to our high quality and highly trained armed forces? Past attempts to change this package have failed.

*Bob Julian, Legislative Affairs*

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**A good leader is one who knows the way, shows the way, and goes the way**



**CALL IN RESERVATIONS FOR  
MAY 16, 2012 LUNCHEON**

**MAIN MENU:** Slow-roasted Leg of Pork with Mushroom and Fresh Herb Gravy; Scalloped Potatoes; Green Beans with Bacon Bits and Cracked Pepper; Chocolate Pudding

**ALTERNATE MENU:** Choice of Garden or Cobb Salad

**NOTE: PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR MENU CHOICE WHEN YOU CALL OR E-MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS**

**Where: Manzanita Place** |  
**(Elks Lodge)** |  
**1705 B Manzanita Ave.** |  
**Chico, CA 95926** |  
**Time: Check In: 11:30 am** |  
**Call to Order: 12:00 pm** |

**CONTACT: CATHY (876-1090) OR E-MAIL**  
**([cathyh@paradiseca.com](mailto:cathyh@paradiseca.com)) THREE (3) DAYS**  
**PRIOR TO THE ABOVE DATE TO MAKE**  
**YOUR RESERVATIONS**  
**\$15.00**

**RESERVATIONS**

Keep calling in those luncheon reservations. For the past couple of months, we have been increasing the number of attendees and would like to keep the trend going. To help that trend continue, we ask that you volunteer to offer a ride to those who would like to attend but have been unable to attend due to physical limitations. It is being a good neighbor and the right thing to do. I, like my husband, have served as Reservations for many years. I would like someone to serve as my assistant and eventually take over the job. Please lend serious thought to volunteering to help the chapter.

**REMINDER:** To those of us who would like to have wine at our luncheon, the Manzanita Place reminds us that, per their policy, the bar opens at 2:00 pm. That is the time the bartender comes to work. That means that wine service is not available during our luncheon period.

**LUNCHEON SPEAKER FOR MAY**

**1st Lt. Brian Wagner** is a U.S. Air Force Public Affairs Officer with six years of worldwide experience. He is the Chief of Public Affairs, 9 Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base, California. Lieutenant Wagner, originally from Pottsville, Pa., enlisted in the Air Force as an Air Transportation Apprentice in 2002. He deployed to Camp Sather, Iraq, as a passenger terminal controller at the Baghdad International Airport in 2004-2005. Later in 2005, he deployed to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, as an air transportation specialist in support of special operations units. After 3 years of service, he enrolled in AFROTC at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA. He was commissioned in May 2008 as a Distinguished Graduate from AFROTC Detachment 752.



He graduated as distinguished graduate of Public Affairs Qualification Course at Fort Meade, Md., in 2009. As his first assignment as an officer, he held the position of Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, 31<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Lt Wagner has also served as Public Affairs Officer for MEDCEUR 09 held in Nis, Serbia, and was the Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. military section of the 2010 Berlin Air Show. Lt Wagner was awarded the 2011 ACC Public Affairs Captain Bradley R. Schuldt Outstanding CGO of the Year.

Prior to coming to Beale AFB, Calif., he served a nine month deployment to Qalat, Afghanistan, and served as the Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul's Public Affairs Officer and Project Purchasing Officer.

RETURN ADDRESS  
 VALLEY-RIDGE CHAPTER, MOAA  
 P.O. BOX 216  
 PARADISE, CA 95967

**LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2012**

***PLEASE POST THESE DATES ON  
 YOUR REFRIGERATOR TODAY***

*January 18, 2012*

*February 15, 2012*

*March 21, 2012*

*April 18, 2012*

*May 16, 2012*

*July 26, 2012 Picnic*

*September 19, 2012*

*October 17, 2012*

*\*November 14, 2012*

*\*December 12, 2012*

***\*NOTE: MEETINGS ON SECOND (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
 WEDNESDAYS***

***Board meetings follow Luncheon***

**2012 ELECTED OFFICERS**

President	Jim Young	LtCol USAF	345-9805
First VP	Robert Kermen	CAPT USN	342-3717
Second VP	Bob VanLaan	LTC USA	342-3717
Secretary	William Tefteller	COL USAF	879-0231
Treasurer	Bob Huss	LtCol USAF	876-1090
Past President	Robert Julian	LTC USA	533-5773

**2012 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Programs	Robert Kermen	CAPT USN	342-3717
Membership	Bob VanLaan	LTC USA	342-3717
Chaplain	Billy Hayes	LTC USA	384-1476
CAP Liaison	Jack Henderson	CWO-4 USMC	589-0409
Personal Affairs	Bill Shrum	Maj. USAR	342-7816
Sunshine	Mary Lou Shrum	Mrs.	342-7816
Reservations	Cathy Huss	Mrs.	876-1090
Special Events	Carle Goyen	Capt. USAF, USA	532-1491
NL Editor	Pat Haggard	Mrs.	589-1095
Asst. Editor	Robert Julian	LTC USA	533-5773
Legis. Affairs	Robert Julian	"	"
Historian	Robert Julian	"	"
Publicity	[Any Volunteers?]		