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Volume XL, No. 3, March, 2012

Greetings from President Jensen:

What fun it was to have **Cdr. Gene Talmadge** as our speaker in February! He wore his SeaBee Commander's cap, and tweaked our memories from our active duty years of service long ago, as he asked us what various popular military terms and acronyms meant. Do you remember what "Geedunk" (or as the Marines called it, "Pogie Bait") was? Or the saying, "Balls to the Wall!" (Air Force pilots), or how about "Cumshaw?" (which I knew, as a former Supply Corps officer in the Navy during the sixties). "SNAFU," we were told, stands for "Situation Normal: All Fouled Up!" Meanings for bug juice, Charlie Noble, Bubblehead, Irish pennant, and Brown Shoes were also elucidated for us. Thanks, Gene!

**PHONE DAVID JAFFEE
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION:**

**(818) 766-3489
WE MEET ABOUT 11:30 A.M.
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2012
MARIE CALENDAR'S RESTUARANT
707 N. PACIFIC AVENUE
GLENDALE, CA**

CONGRATULATIONS to our new parents, Dan and Michelle Bowman, on the birth of their firstborn, Sophia Elizabeth! Born Friday evening, March 2, she weighed in at six pounds, nine ounces, nearly a month earlier than expected – a huge delight to her parents! (Dan missed his weekend drill with his Reserve Unit, so likely will have to make that up March 17, 18.)

Charles Logston speaks to us on **Saint Patrick's Day, March 17** (my parents' anniversary!). He will discuss WWI with us, and tells me he has even more artifacts for WWI than he did for the Civil War, which was his topic a year ago last Fall. This is a meeting you will not want to miss.

I'm also very pleased to announce that our special speaker on the sensitive topic of Islam (the Muslim religion) has confirmed his availability to speak to us April 21. In that he still travels to the mid-East, and this Newsletter is posted on our California MOAA Website, I will not put his name in print here – but he is both a scholar who has studied this topic, AND an individual who lived in a predominantly Muslim country for some years – so bring your questions, as well as additional guests.

We hope that **Mike McClary** and some others from the former San Fernando Valley Chapter of MOAA will come and share stories of their military experiences at our May 19 meeting. Will keep you posted as that hopefully firms up. **Ken Hackman** (who plans to take portraits photos for us at a future meeting) reports that his wife, Manola, is improving after her stroke: She has gone from requiring a wheelchair, to walking with a cane and some assistance. Hopefully, Ken and Manola can rejoin us in the near future. Gladys Askey received a phone call from Col. Frank Knolle, formerly a member of a now disbanded Chapter of MOAA which met near his home in San Marino. He and his wife, Helen look forward to joining our Chapter and plan to be present for our March meeting. Welcome Aboard!

There are some notable movies in theatres these days: I mentioned Karen and I were truly touched, viewing **RED TAILS**, the story of the “Tuskegee Airmen.” Gene Talmadge then said he and his wife have a member of the actual Tuskegee Airmen living next door, whom they took to view this film together – and he had a very favorable impression of it. Another just came out about **Navy Seals**, and includes some known to a member of the former San Fernando Valley Chapter of MOAA: **ACT OF VALOR** is on my short list of movies to take in before it stops being shown on the big screen.

Cal MOAA NEWS:

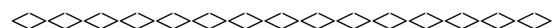
In January, Col. Bill Reals gave us a very full picture of MOAA’s work nationally, so Gene Talmadge wisely did not rehash this information. However, he did note that on the California level, the incoming President (who succeeded Col. Reals) is John Sammons, who has four key objectives:

1. Clean up CalMOAA’s By-Laws

2. Bring Auxilliary Members into full chapter membership (so they can vote, hold office, etc. Our Chapter already does this.)
3. Increase Chapter membership. (May this become true for us, too!!!)
- 4, Develop guidelines to enable Chapters to remain in business in a “lean and mean configuration.” (i.e., some may become satellites of other chapters, rather than closing their doors entirely, etc.)

MANY THANKS to all members who have paid their dues for 2012!

Approximately half of our membership has paid, and we deeply appreciate your support. If your name does not appear here, you still owe dues of \$20. for military members or couples, or \$10. for auxiliary members. We trust all former members will hang in there with us for this current year. We now have located our former secretary’s keys to the Post Office Box in Burbank, so if you are unable to attend our meetings in person, just drop the check for dues in the mail, and it will reach us. To date, our records show these folks have paid: George Ball, Joan Rinard, William Birdwell, Fred Bond, Arlene Cole / Margaret Byrne, Eugenie Hamlin, Leosia Wentink, Henry von Seyfried, James C. Sutton Jr., Joan Newbro, Ward & Phyllis Wenner, Robert Alm, Gladys Askey, Don Berkus, Dan Bowman, Myron Corets, Oliver Glenn, David Jaffe, Peter Jensen, Cozette Pastor, Shirley Peterson/Taylor, Seymour Porter, Joan Rinard, Rex Link, Vida Major, Betty K Bjornsen, and David Worley. If your name does not appear here, please mail in your dues right away; or, better yet, come on March 17, and pay in person! We’d love to see you again!



Gene Talmadge forwarded this report for our MOAA Chapter's consideration:

Legislative Report

March 2012

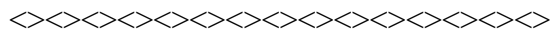
Col Lorna Griess, USA Ret.

This month the report was supposed to be about Obamacare (The affordable Care Act), and what to expect for 2012. I have spent hours and days collecting information about this bill so I have a large pile of stuff. I was ready to print out the whole bill at one point but it was too large and I could not make sense of the legal language and the cross references. I have been relying on several credible sources for information. I can only find minor changes listed for this year in all my searching. The change in birth control funding in the news recently was not in my stack of stuff. Prepare for more surprises. From what I can see, the biggest changes will take place in 2013, after the election.

What I did find is that Medicare as we know it will start to change. Obamacare contains more than 160 provisions for Medicare that increase government's control over the delivery of care. Obamacare expands central planning. It places hard caps on Medicare spending that ends the open ended program. Major payment decisions will be made by an unelected board, the Payment Advisory Board. The law weakens the doctor-patient relationship by linking payment not to patient outcomes but to adherence to government protocols. Does this sound like care rationing for seniors? What the government provides and pays for, the government can control. One big reason for NOT having government controlled health care. Another very large thing: Tricare for Life is linked to Medicare.

I did find one reference to veterans under taxes: "December 31, 2012 is the deadline for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report to Congress on the results of a study on the effect of the new taxes on branded pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers, medical device manufacturers and importers and health insurance providers on the cost of care provided to veterans and veteran's access to devices and prescription drugs (Sec.9011)." Evidently a lot of new taxes are being imposed on Pharmaceuticals, medical devices and insurers. That was not in my stack of information either.

For more information, type Obamacare or The Affordable Care Act into your search engine and you will get reams of information all of it conflicting. This is a badly written, fuzzy bill that is meant to be confusing. It needs to be repealed. We need sensible changes to the health care system that has the welfare of patients in mind and encourages doctors to provide the best treatment, geared to a patient not a government protocol.



Your Editor's note on the above article:

In that Navy medical care is a form of socialized medicine, or government run medical service, I've been very skeptical about what is ahead under this bill even before it was (barely!) voted into law. If one wants to read articles decrying its mandates and taxes from a great many sources, I'd suggest entering this website into your computer's search engine:

<http://handsoffmyhealth.org/>

This New York based organization sends daily emails, each with a synopsis of two articles critiquing this law, as well as links to view the entire articles, should you wish to research them further.

Our Chapter enjoys a proud history of helping worthy students attend college, due particularly to the liberal generosity of some of our earlier members. A nursing student we're assisting now, **Elizabeth Eastman**, wrote us a lovely letter updating us on her studies. I'm sorry to say that letter languished in our Post Office Mailbox several months until we started to undertake more fully all that **Marion Gustavsen** so faithfully accomplished for us as our previous Secretary. Elizabeth wrote:

I wanted to thank you again so much for awarding me your scholarship for the third year in a row. I thought I would write this letter to give an update on my accomplishments and life as a nursing student.

As you know, I am attending Sacramento State's Nursing School, and just finished up my second semester. Sacramento State is unique because it is an accelerated two-year nursing program, whereas most universities offer three-year programs. The amount of work we are assigned weekly is overwhelming at times and I have never had to study so much to earn decent grades in academics.

During my first semester, I remember the first three weeks of skills lab where I learned to insert foley catheters, give medications, and do a hundred other basic nursing skills. Last semester, we moved into a beautiful huge new building completely dedicated to the nursing program. We have high tech mannequins to practice on, and we can do everything on them from listening to lung sounds and taking blood pressures, to giving shots and inserting NG tubes. This semester has been my favorite by far. I am studying pediatrics and obstetrics so I get to work in women's health and with adorable babies and children! They are such a wonderful and constantly smiling group of patients.

Looking back, I am absolutely amazed at how much I have learned in the past year and the confidence I have when working with my patients. I started out being extremely nervous about asking if I could listen to a heartbeat, and now I take care of two patients in an eight-hour shift, doing all of their assessments and care, no problem. I am also a lot more organized this semester in terms of my study habits and prioritizing my time. I am thankful for productive life and people skills I have gained!

I also wanted to offer my regrets for not being able to thank you in person at your luncheon. I think I will be in Southern California at the end of November, so perhaps I can make it then. I enjoyed recently rereading the past two letters you have sent since awarding me your scholarship. Thank you again! Not only have you provided me with money to pay my tuition, but most importantly you have given me the opportunity to truly care for people and touch their lives!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Eastman

(I'm glad Elizabeth has been receiving our Newsletters; perhaps she can visit us in a future luncheon meeting, since November, 2011 is long gone. I've just written her to tell her why we have taken so long to acknowledge her lovely thank-you letter.

– Ed.)

Treasurer's Note: As of February 20, we had \$400. in our Scholarship Fund, and just over \$600. in our General Fund.

Joan Porter faithfully conducts our 50/50 fundraiser each month. In February, **David Jaffe** won the grand total of \$14.00 – BUT he had already left our meeting a bit early, when his ride was available. Rather than select an alternative ticket, we collectively judged that David would contribute his winnings to the Scholarship Fund, so we did that for him. (Thanks, David!)

On the lighter side:

“Several days ago, as I left a meeting at our church, I desperately gave myself a personal TSA pat-down. I was looking for my keys. They were not in my pockets or purse. A quick search in the meeting room revealed nothing.

“Suddenly I realized, I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband, Jim, has scolded me many times for leaving the keys in the ignition. My theory is, the ignition is the best place not to lose them. His theory is that the car will be stolen. As I burst through the doors of the church, I came to a terrifying conclusion: His theory was right. The parking lot was empty!

“I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

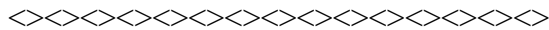
“Then, I made the most difficult call of all. “Honey,” I stammered. I always call him honey in times like these. ‘I left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen.’

“There was a period of silence....

“I thought the call had been dropped, but then I heard Jim’s voice: ‘Betty!’ He barked. ‘I dropped you off!’

“Now it was my time to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, ‘Well, come and get me.’

“Jim retorted, ‘I will, as soon as I convince this policeman I have not stolen your car!’”



In a more serious vein:

National MOAA stresses that “NOW is the time to Fight Back,” on Health Care, Pay, and Retirement Cuts! There are cards pre-printed on the latest issue of *“Military Officer”* magazine for us

to sign and mail in to our elected Representative and Senators. For members of National MOAA who have that March issue, please take action as requested. Should some reading this NOT be members, it would be most helpful for you to take the time and personally write a card or letter to each one, with this suggested message:

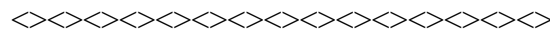
“Dear Senator Feinstein (Boxer, or Representative ____ (Your Congressman):

I am writing to urge you to oppose budget cuts that would dramatically raise military health care fees, impose large force or pay cutbacks, or undermine career military service by cutting core retirement incentives.

Generations were induced to decades of arduous service by the promise this would earn the current top-tier benefit package. The promise acknowledged their extraordinary sacrifices as an enormous up-front premium few Americans are willing to pay.

Please ensure the FY 2013 budget does not retroactively devalue the premiums of service and sacrifice already paid by career servicemembers and those grievously injured.

Sincerely, (Your signature)



Col. Lee Lange II, Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, has written in the March issue of *The Affiliate* newsletter, to remind us to remain politically neutral whenever representing MOAA – which is admittedly a tough stance during an intensely political year in America – yet vitally important....

VERDUGO HILLS CHAPTER
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2nd V.P.: Mrs. Gladys Askey 818-845-3070
3rd V.P.: LT Sy Porter 818-956-1965
Treasurer/Secretary
MAJ/Mrs. Dan Bowman 818-265-0145
Reservations: David Jaffee 818-766-3489
50/50 Mrs. Joan Porter 818-956-1965
JROTC - LT Rex Link 323-936-6218

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veteran's association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.