

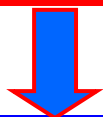


The Eagle's Eye



January - February 2012

Newsletter of the Gainesville, Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)



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President's Message

Happy New Year!

We had a delightful Chapter Holiday Dinner celebration on 15 December at the Gainesville Country Club. Thirty eight members joined forces for a festive holiday season gathering. Following our "Happy Hour" social we were served an excellent meal on tables beautifully decorated by Barbara Nute. Pianist, Eric Redmond, provided festive holiday music throughout the evening dinner.

Our next Chapter event is the annual Sweetheart Dinner on Thursday, February 16th. See the enclosed reservation/flyer on page 3.

Our own member, Jim Gleason (COL, USA Ret.), wearing his "hat" as the Florida Council of Chapters North East Area Vice-President, conducted the installation ceremony of our 2012 chapter officers. New Officers and Board members are: OFFICERS: Carter Nute, (CAPT, USN Ret.), President; Parker Lawrence (CAPT, USN Ret.), Secretary; Rodney Bolling (LCDR, USN Ret.), Treasurer. DIRECTORS: Paul Albritton (BGEN, USAF Ret.); Mickey Smith (CAPT, USN Ret.); Walt Visniski (CDR, USN Ret.) and Candy Gleason, Immediate Past President.

You will note our Board membership is small and there is an obvious absence of a named First Vice-President officer. I invite all members to consider the opportunity to serve the chapter with participation on the Board of Directors. With minimum time investment your voice can make a difference in chapter successes beyond the 50th Anniversary we celebrated in July 2010. Our board normally meets at 7:30 PM the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Queen of Peace Church, 10900 SW 24th Avenue (enter Church and follow meeting signs to the right). The meeting is open and all are invited to join. Interested in getting involved? Give me a call at (352) 335-1293.

[Continued on page 2]

Saturday, January 28, 2011—7th Annual Veterans Awards Dinner, Paramount Hotel, 6:00PM (Tickets Available at the Door)

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, February 11, 2012 — Hot Rodding for Heroes Classic Auto Tour and Show

Thursday, February 16, 2012 — Chapter Sweetheart Dinner, Gainesville CC

President's Message - Continued From Page 1

As we look ahead this year, I would urge each of you to stay updated on legislative activity throughout 2012. With the prospects of deep DOD budget cuts I enjoin you to support MOAA National initiatives to insure hard earned military entitlements are not jeopardized.

We look forward to seeing you at our Sweet-heart Dinner on February 16th.

Carter

Extracted From “As I See It — Consider Yourself Warned” by MOAA’s Colonel Steve Strobridge, USAF Retired [See moaa.org for the full article]

Many in Congress are up in arms over what cuts that deep will do to national security, but there are just as many who are determined to have the cuts come from the Pentagon rather than other programs.

What’s at stake? COLAs to all federal annuities, TRICARE, TRICARE For Life, major force and compensation cuts, commissaries, exchanges, family-support programs, and just about every military program you and your family use.

If you survived the budget cuts of the 1970s, '80s, or '90s, you know how bad those were. But they were nothing compared to the budget pressures we’re all going to face over the next four or five years.

We congratulate ourselves on our successes of the past decade — which were due to the power of MOAA members’ grassroots input to their legislators.

This year, members set an all-time record on that score, sending more than 1.3 million messages to their elected officials via media we can count.

That total includes more than 820,000 emails sent through MOAA’s website, blasting past last year’s previous record of 499,000.

But it will take a far broader effort to avoid budget disasters in the years ahead.

First, there are high-powered, well-connected, well-heeled lobbyists fighting (and making hefty political contributions) to preserve their shares of the budget pie — at your expense.

Second, if you look past the impressive 820,000 MOAA-generated emails, you find only 67,000 individuals generated all of those messages.

In other words, most of MOAA’s legislative effort is being carried by less than 20 percent of its members.

Are the other 80 percent oblivious to the threat? Do they think, “It’s just politics and will blow over like most of the threats of the past 10 years have?” Do they assume their input wouldn’t make a difference?

Regardless of the reason, the complacency and inertia of “the other 80 percent” is the biggest budgetary threat to you and your family.

If you’re in that 80 percent, you’re your own worst enemy. Your continued inaction will jeopardize not only your family and your future but also the families and futures of your brothers and sisters in arms.

The issue here isn’t ensuring the military community takes no budget hits. The nation’s budget problems are such that no segment of America will escape taking some significant hits.

The issue is resisting taking a disproportional share of hits simply because those with other interests are more active and better connected and have deeper pockets.

If you’re not getting involved to defend what your service and sacrifice has earned — and actively seeking to motivate others to protect theirs (and yours) — you’re helping paint the target on your COLAs and health care and on the troops and their families and your own family’s future well-being.

Using the moaa.org website to send emails to the President, Senators, Congressmen, and others in 5 minutes or less. [See Take Action on page 4]

Sweetheart Dinner



Date: February 16th (Thursday)

Piano Music



Location: Gainesville Country Club

Time: Social Hour with Open Cash Bar at 6:00pm, followed by Dinner at 6:30pm

Menu: Plated Dinner (Beef Tips or Chicken Marsala) with mixed green salad/sliced tomatoes, green beans almandine, rolls and butter, and Chef's dessert. Coffee, tea, and sodas included.

Name of Member/Spouse:

Number of Reservations: Beef Tips _____ Chicken Marsala _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$25 per person): _____, or "Charge to my GCC Account" # _____

[We need reservations by Monday, February 13th in order to give the Club our final headcount — call Carter Nute at 335-1293 if you have any problem with this deadline]

Return this portion with your check payable to MOAA , To be received not later than February 13th.

| (Clip)

|
| Gainesville Chapter, MOAA
| P.O. Box 142423
| Gainesville, FL 32614-2423
|

Take Action - Using the moaa.org website to send issue oriented emails to the President and Members of Congress in 5 minutes or less!

Five Steps in Five Minutes or Less to Help MOAA:

- Go to moaa.org (Homepage)
- Click on **Take Action** at the top of the Homepage
- **Take Action** will show a drop down menu - Click on "**Contact Congress**" which takes you to the **Legislative Action Center**
- You will find a "**Featured Alert**":

Prevent Medicare/TRICARE Cut

[Act now to prevent the projected 27% cut in Medicare and military TRICARE payments to doctors that will occur Mar. 1, 2012 unless Congress changes current law.](#)

- Click on **Take Action**. Follow the Directions for preparing the email to send to the President or Members of Congress on this issue.

You also will find "**Legislative Alerts and Updates**". If you click on this, it will take you to a page showing all **Current Action Alerts**. You can easily send emails on any or all of these.

Current Action Alerts:

- Prevent Medicare/Tricare Cut
- Oppose CBO's Dramatic Tricare Cuts
- Second - Class Status for Military Healthcare
- Don't Undermine Career Incentives
- Protect Military Benefits
- SBP - DIC Offset

[Continued in next column]



Current Action Alerts Continued.

- Honor America's Guard and Reserve Retirees Act
- Don't Tax Military People First

Sample Email - Prepared and Sent in Less Than 5 Minutes.

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0903

Re: Prevent Medicare/TRICARE Cut

Senator Rubio:

Please ensure Congress acts promptly to reverse the projected 27% cut in Medicare and military TRICARE payments to doctors that will occur March 1, 2012 unless Congress changes current law.

Access to quality care is the #1 healthcare problem faced by members of the military community. Deployed troops shouldn't have to worry whether their doctor will refuse to see their sick spouse or child because of these large payment cuts.

Please ensure Congress reverses the 27% cut for 2012 and fixes the statutory formula that keeps causing these recurring annual healthcare threats.

Sincerely,

John T. Vet
COL USA RET
352-xxx-xxxx

Medical Corner - Melanoma

[See /www.mayoclinic.com]

Definition

Melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, develops in the cells that produce melanin — the pigment that gives your skin its color. Melanoma can also form in your eyes and, rarely, in internal organs, such as your intestines.

The exact cause of all melanomas isn't clear, but exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from sunlight or tanning lamps and beds increases your risk of developing melanoma. Other factors, such as your genetic makeup, likely also play a role.

Limiting your sun exposure and avoiding tanning lamps and beds can help reduce your risk of melanoma. And making sure you know the warning signs of skin cancer can help ensure that cancerous changes are detected and treated before the cancer has a chance to spread. Melanoma can be treated successfully if it is detected early.

Symptoms

Melanomas can develop anywhere on your body, but they most often develop in areas that have had exposure to the sun, such as your back, legs, arms and face. Melanomas can also occur in areas that don't receive much sun exposure, such as the soles of your feet, palms of your hands and on fingernail beds. These hidden melanomas are more common in people with darker skin.

The first melanoma symptoms often are:

- A change in an existing mole
- The development of a new, unusual-looking growth on your skin

Melanoma doesn't always begin as a mole. It can also occur on otherwise normal-appearing skin.

Normal moles

Normal moles are generally a uniform color, such as tan, brown or black, with a distinct border separating the mole from your surrounding skin. They're oval or round and usually smaller than 1/4 inch (6 millimeters) in diameter — the size of a pencil eraser.

Most people have between 10 and 40 moles. Many of these develop by age 40, although moles may change in appearance over time — some may even disappear with age.

Unusual moles that may indicate melanoma

Characteristics of unusual moles that may indicate melanomas or other skin cancers follow the A-B-C-D-E guide developed by the American Academy of Dermatology:

- **A is for asymmetrical shape.** Look for moles with irregular shapes, such as two very different-looking halves.
- **B is for irregular border.** Look for moles with irregular, notched or scalloped borders — characteristics of melanomas.
- **C is for changes in color.** Look for growths that have many colors or an uneven distribution of color.
- **D is for diameter.** Look for new growth in a mole larger than about 1/4 inch (6 millimeters).
- **E is for evolving.** Look for changes over time, such as a mole that grows in size or that changes color or shape. Moles may also evolve to develop new signs and symptoms, such as new itchiness or bleeding.

Other suspicious changes in a mole may include:

- Scaliness
- Itching
- Spreading of pigment from the mole into the surrounding skin
- Oozing or bleeding

[Continued on Page 6]

Medical Corner - Continued From Page 5

Cancerous (malignant) moles vary greatly in appearance. Some may show all of the changes listed above, while others may have only one or two unusual characteristics.

Hidden Melanomas

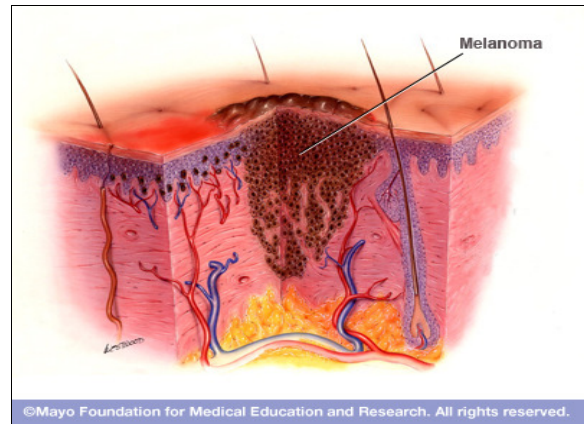
Melanomas can also develop in areas of your body that have little or no exposure to the sun, such as the spaces between your toes and on your palms, soles, scalp or genitals. These are sometimes referred to as hidden melanomas, because they occur in places most people wouldn't think to check. When melanoma occurs in people with darker skin, it's more likely to occur in a hidden area.



Moles are usually harmless. They may contain hairs or become raised or wrinkled. Talk to your doctor about any change in the color or size of a mole, or if itching, pain, bleeding or inflammation develops.



The first sign of melanoma is often a mole that changes size, shape or color. This melanoma shows color variations and an irregular border, both of which are melanoma warning signs.



Melanoma is a form of skin cancer that begins in the cells (melanocytes) that control the pigment in your skin. This illustration shows melanoma cells extending from the surface of the skin into the deeper skin layers.

When to see a doctor

Make an appointment with your doctor if you notice any skin changes that seem unusual.

Veteran Burial Information

Requests for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery cannot be made via the Internet. The VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations. Families should make these arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the families expense.

For Burial in a National Cemetery

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 131 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances . Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family

[Continued on Page 11]

Need a New ID Card? Camp Blanding is the place to go!

- Check your ID Card for the expiration date.
- **If you are need a new card:** Go to Camp Blanding, Building #2300 (Mon-Fri, Hours: 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM). **Phone 1- (904) 682-3379.** No appointment necessary.
- If you are in DEERS, you will need 2 forms of ID (old ID card and one other form).
- If you are NOT in DEERS, you will need to have your Sponsor with you, or have a Power of Attorney.

On line Request for DD Form 214

- Start Your Military Service Record Request (DD Form 214 & SF-180) online by going to the following website:

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records
- Military personnel records are used for proving military service, or as a valuable tool in genealogical research.
- Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain **free** copies of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records several ways. This is the very easy online way to obtain your DD Form 214.

The Fisher House Needs Our Support - www.gainesvillefisherhouse.org

• Construction Begins

Construction for the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Fisher House has officially begun. In preparation for the groundbreaking, the construction site has installed the utilities gas, water and power. This is just the beginning for the Fisher House "home away from home".

The Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Fisher House will hold 20 accessible suites that include a communal kitchen, laundry facilities, living areas, a study area, outdoor garden and playground areas. The Walk of Courage walkway, filled with prayers and encouragement on every brick, will connect the Fisher House and the adjacent Malcom Center.

The Fisher House will be a refuge for veterans and their families during treatment for traumatic, war-related medical crises. The Fisher House depends on public donations to continue its work and 100 percent of any donation will be allocated for that purpose.

See Page 8 for *Hot Rodding For Heroes* Fundraising Event on 11 February

Hot Rodding For Heroes Event on 11 February— Net Proceeds Donated to the Gainesville Fisher House Foundation

First Annual



Benefiting Military Veterans

Net proceeds donated to the Gainesville Fisher House Foundation

Gainesville, Florida 2-11-12

\$20 online registration prior to 1/31/12

Act now! Event limited to 250 cars

- 30 mile police escorted classic auto tour through Gainesville and Alachua County
- Classic auto show in Haile Village Center and Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club fairways
 - Military flyover
 - Live music
 - Drill teams
 - Vendor area
 - Color guard
 - Raffle items
 - Parachutists
 - Family activities



Car Show in Haile Village Center & on Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club

www.hotroddingforheroes.org • 352-340-1040



Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club



Support our Veterans, Show your Ride

Chapter Membership Application

Rank: _____

Full Name: _____

Service: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Spouse (Full Name):

____ Retired ____ Reserve

____ Active Duty ____ Widow(er)*

____ Former Officer ____ National Guard

____ Regular

Telephone (Land Line): _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Year Entered Service: _____

Year Retired or Separated: _____

Year Arrived in Gainesville Area: _____

National MOAA Member # (leave blank if not a national member—see moaa.org to join):

- Volunteer Preferences: Leadership Position
- Committee
 - Newsletter
 - Web site
 - Any/Other

Business: _____

Hobbies: _____

Membership Application Continued

Annual Membership (1 Jan through 31 Dec) is \$15, Auxiliary \$10.

Mail completed form with check (payable to MOAA) to: **Gainesville Chapter, MOAA, PO Box 142423, Gainesville, FL 32614-2423**

VA Homeless Project

Many Chapter Members have made donations like the ones described below. We also have devoted help to the Honor Center in organizing donations received from our Chapter and others in Gainesville.

You can donate the following kinds of goods by calling Mindy Duncan, who works with Vianne Marchese (our speaker at the June 2009 Luncheon). Members of our Chapter have donated goods, and we also have made a monetary donation to this program.

dishes, utensils, personal hygiene (new) products, linens, towels, sheets, blankets, pillow cases, small rugs, furniture, cleaning products, [Anything that a homeless Vet with nothing can use when going into an apartment would be a good donation].

[underwear and socks are needed now]

You can deliver small items. Mindy will make arrangements with you for the pickup of furniture or large items.

Call Mindy at The HONOR Center — she will tell you when you can deliver donations. Mindy's contact information is as follows:

Mindy Duncan

Telephone: (352) 548-1800

Address: 1604 SE 3rd Avenue

Directions to the VA HONOR Facility:

Williston Rd to Right on E University, Right on SE Hawthorne Rd (SR 20), Right on SE 15th Street, Left on SE 3d Avenue to 1604 SE 3d Avenue

2012 Officers and Directors

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Carter Nute (Capt, USN Ret) ccnute@earthlink.net
(352) 335-1293

Treasurer

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((904) 537-5287

Secretary

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(352) 373-4160

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(352)462-7160

Candy Gleason (Immediate Past President) gleason6@cox.net
(352) 333-8974

Mickey Smith (Capt, USN Ret) mickey@acceleration.net
(352)-376-6611

Walt Visniski (Cdr, USN Ret) wvisniski@cox.net
(352) 331-8553

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-Legislative -Walt Visniski (Cdr, USN Ret) wvisniski@cox.net
(352) 331-8553

-Membership - Roger Pierce (Maj, USAF Ret) roger@piercepages.com
(352) 378-7063

-Newsletter/TOPS Liaison - Jim Gleason (Col, USA Ret) gleason6@cox.net
(352) 333-8974



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012

Chapter Social Functions and Meetings

- **Thursday, 16 February 2012— Sweetheart Dinner (Valentine's Event), at Gainesville Country Club. Social Hour: 6:00pm—Dinner: 6:30pm**
- **Tuesday, 1 May — Cinco de Mayo Dinner at Mexico Lindo Restaurant. Social Hour: 6:00pm—Dinner: 6:30pm**
- **June — TBA—Joint Member/Spouse and Rotary Luncheon — Napolatano's. 11:30**
- **July/August — no events.**
- **October—TBA**
- **Sunday, 11 November— Veteran's Day Picnic, at Ginnie Springs at 2:30pm**
- **Thursday, 13 December - Holiday Dinner, at Gainesville Country Club. Social Hour: 6:30pm— Dinner: 7pm**

Military Officer's Wives (MOW) 2011 (Social Hour 11:30am— Lunch 12pm)

- **Tuesday, 24 January— Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon-Gainesville Country Club**
- **Tuesday, 27 March — Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club, BELK FASHION SHOW**
- **Tuesday, 22 May — Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club**
- **Tuesday, 23 October — Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club**

Veteran Burial Information - Continued From Page 6

Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

Preparing in Advance

Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance.

You should advise your family of your wishes and where your discharge papers are kept. These papers are very important in establishing your eligibility. You may wish to make pre-need arrangements with a funeral home.

At the time of need your family would contact a funeral home who will assist them with making burial arrangements at the national cemetery.

To schedule a burial: Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117.

Donating Burial Flags in National Cemeteries

Most of the Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries display an Avenue of Flags on patriotic holidays and during special events. The Avenues consist of burial flags donated by the families of deceased Veterans and provide a unique visible tribute to all of our Nation's Veterans.

A Certificate of Appreciation is presented to the donor for providing their loved ones' burial flag to a national cemetery.

Please contact the cemetery of your choice for information on how to donate a veteran's burial flag.

For Burial in a Private Cemetery

Burial benefits available for Veterans buried in a private cemetery include a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. There are no benefits available to spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery



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Jim Lynch
 Veteran's Representative
 352-538-3119
 jlynch@forestmeadowsfh.com

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