



# THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association  
nwfmooa.flmooa.org

Vol. 31 No 10

Serving all Branches of The Uniformed Services

October 2025

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thursday **October 2nd**  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow  
**Place:** Fort Walton Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** **Guest Speaker:**  
**Bonnie R. Barlow, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, President/CEO Bridgeway Center, Inc.**

### MAKE A RESERVATION

- Reservations are Required
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change: \$16

Reservation deadline is Saturday at noon prior to meeting. Go to <http://nwfmooa.org> and select the link "Click here to make reservations", or email [nwfreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfreservations@gmail.com), or call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075 to make a reservation.

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## Our October Lunch Features Bonnie R. Barlow President and CEO of Bridgeway Center, Inc.

Bonnie has been with Bridgeway Center, Inc. (BCI) for 38 years and has been the CEO since August 2018.

Over the years, Bonnie has worked in many different positions at BCI. She was a misdemeanor probation officer and supervisor for ten years, managed the DUI School program, and taught Driver Improvement classes. Bonnie also gave teenagers and adults driving lessons in Crestview and Ft. Walton Beach. Bonnie assisted with the development of the first Mental Health Court and Drug Court for Okaloosa County.



Bonnie has served as the Quality Management Coordinator, CEO Executive Assistant/EAP Coordinator, SRQ Program Manager, Human Resources Officer (HRO), Chief Administrative Officer, and Chief Operating Officer.

Bonnie earned her Senior Professional in Human Resources certification and an SHRM Senior Certified Professional certification. Bonnie is also a recipient of Bridgeway Center's Distinguished Service Award.

Since becoming the CEO, Bonnie has worked to implement Okaloosa County's Pre-Trial Diversion Program, Outpatient Detox Unit, Opioid Medication Assistance Treatment program, provide daily operations at One Hopeful Place (Homeless Shelter for single men and women), and facilitate the HUD Permanent Supportive Housing program for Okaloosa and Walton Counties. She established a primary care clinic for the uninsured and Medicaid population, and BCI received a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic grant in 2022.

Please join us for our **October 2nd** Membership Meeting. Click [HERE](#) to make reservations or call Karl Eschmann at 850-621-7482. Reservations are REQUIRED (no walk-ins) not later than September 27th.

# From the President's Pen

By Fran Hendricks



## Officers & Directors

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## NWFMOA Makes Another Change Regarding Dues

The NWFMOA Board of Directors has authorized a policy change designed to benefit members who elect to become life members. While most chapter members pay dues on an annual basis, some choose the option of life membership, eliminating the need for yearly payments. At the September Board meeting, the Board approved a provision allowing members to apply their annual dues payment toward a life membership if they make this decision within the same calendar year. Specifically, any member who has paid annual dues and subsequently opts for life membership may have the previous payment credited toward the cost, provided the transaction is completed by December 31. The total cost of life membership is determined by the member's current age.

### Life Membership Dues

<50 \$395	51-55 \$360	56-60 \$335	61-65 \$295	66-70 \$275	71-75 \$240
76-80 \$195	81-85 \$150	86-90 \$110	91-95 \$75	96-100 \$50	101+ Free

This change follows the Chapter's recent approval to amend our bylaws, allowing life memberships to be extended at no cost to all surviving spouses of NWFMOA members. I would like to commend both the Chapter and the Board for these important actions, which reflect sound judgment. The Board remains committed to seeking additional ways to recognize and reward our members.

H2S (Here to Serve),

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired  
54th President, NWFMOA

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Doc's Oyster Bar 5-6:30 PM

# Officers Call



*Click on the logo for a map to Doc's*

Test Your Knowledge

**Take the quiz for a chance to win a free lunch at our next meeting.**

This month the quiz is about some important military history. When you click on the link below, you will see a single question and a place to give your answer and name. If your answer is correct, you will be entered into the drawing at the monthly meeting (you have to be present to win your free meal at the next meeting). You may answer the question multiple times but only the correct answer will count for the drawing (so answering the question correctly 5 times will not give you more chances to win). We don't tell anyone that they got it right or wrong until we disclose the winner at the meeting. At the meeting, we state the answer and how many got it right. Then we pull the one winning entry from the hat.

The September winner was Les Matheson who was present to win his free October lunch.

**Click the link below to get to the quiz.** The winner will be announced at the next meeting. The person must be present to win.

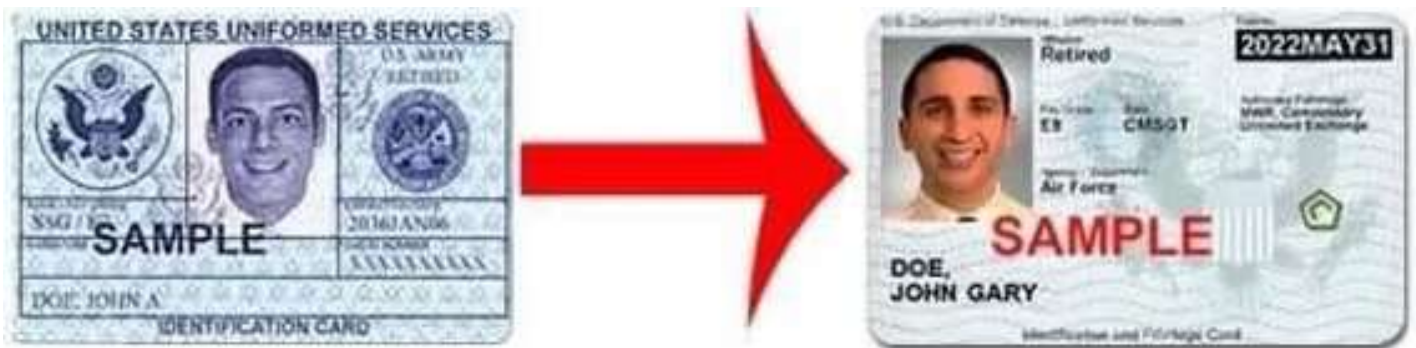
**[CLICK HERE](#)**

# Call to Action 25-01

## Replace Your Military ID Card

If you haven't changed your and your spouse's military ID to the new Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card, you need to do so before December 31, 2025. If you miss this deadline, the Security Forces will confiscate your military ID upon trying to enter the base.

How do you know if you have the correct military ID card? The new Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card is white. The soon to be outdated cards are red, brown, green, blue, and tan in color. It doesn't matter if your current military ID card says INDEF or has an expiration date beyond December 31, 2025. If your military ID card is not the new white ID card, it will be confiscated. See below.



Both you and your spouse can get your new Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card by visiting the Eglin Military Personnel Section, Building 210 (310 Van Matre Avenue). Appointments are not required. Search military ID cards Eglin AFB online for instructions on how to sign into the queue before arriving, thereby shortening your wait time.

For more specifics on this matter, please see the article, *Replace Your ID Card* in the August *Military Officer* magazine, page 28.

Kudos to NWFMOA Board Member, Kevin Kirby for bringing this to our attention.

**(8/14/25 Update: The December 31, 2025 implementation date has been extended. A new implementation date for replacement of "old" military ID cards has not been released. Recommend you still replace your "old" military ID Card with the new one at your earliest convenience).**

H2S,

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF Retired  
54<sup>th</sup> President, NWFMOA

# Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Ray Alexander



## Without a Compass

Have you ever lost your bearing or just been plain lost? I do not want to admit it, but I have.

I was only about 17 and I walked into the woods where I have been several times. It was a very familiar place. I walked down the logging road. In 1 ¼ miles crossed the creek and stayed on the road until the fallen tree. I turned right and went to my hunting spot. I did not go too far because the swamp ran parallel to the road. North would take me to the highway and South back to the creek.

I waited. No luck today. I got up and walked out. So, I thought. I walked around in a circle 2 times in a very small area. I passed the swamp, to my right twice. Frustration did not help anything. It only became worse as I became mad at myself. This route was no more than a routine over the past few years, and I was now feeling dumb.

I sat down and took a break. After a few minutes I got up and walked straight out! Sitting back down helped calm me and clear my mind. I realized on the way out that there was a very small knoll where I sat. Yet, it was big enough to turn me around.

Walking in and out of this place was routine. I thought I knew everything about this place. I did not. I somehow missed this very small knoll. I learned not to take routine for granted.

Changing your mindset is easy when you stop and take the time to think. I know where I am at. I know where I need to be. I know I will figure it out. There is no need to let the situation or circumstances frustrate me. What is hiding in your routine?

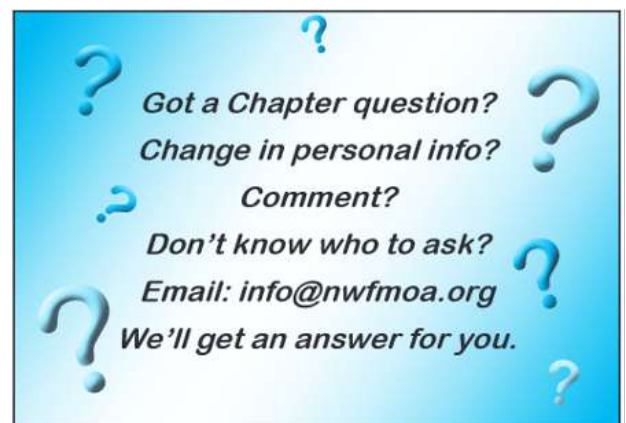
### PUBLIC RECORD

#### In Memoriam

None 😊

#### New Members

None



Got a Chapter question?  
Change in personal info?  
Comment?  
Don't know who to ask?  
Email: [info@nwfmoa.org](mailto:info@nwfmoa.org)  
We'll get an answer for you.



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***Click [HERE](#) now to donate and get your name on the 2025 banner.***

# Community Outreach

## Calling all B-52 Aircrew, Maintainers and Enthusiasts

NWFMOA Board Of Directors member, Karl Eschmann, is the historian for the B-52 Stratofortress Association. You might remember that he authored “*Linebacker: The Untold Story of the Air Raids Over North Vietnam*” which was published by Random House Ivey Books in 1989. He submitted this article to inform those Chapter members who were also associated with the “Bomber” about this great association.



### Tinker AFB OK Association Rendezvous, 2024

Over the past sixty years, tens of thousands of pilots, navigators, EWOs, and gunners have pulled alert with or flown the World’s Greatest Warplane. Together their stories tell its *raison d’être*, its reason for being.

A few years ago it was said that the last B-52 crewmember had not yet been born. Today that may or may not be true, but it’s probably true that that last crewmember is still in grammar school.

You don’t have to have had direct contact with the BUF to appreciate its contribution to history.

There are aviation historians, students of the Cold War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, the Balkan Wars of the '90s, and the current Middle Eastern wars who recognize and want to preserve the history of America's Big Stick.

And, of course, they're enthusiasts who just recognize greatness when they see it and want to be part of its preservation.

## **The People Behind the B-52**

The Association brings together all those who have been or are associated with the BUF—designers and builders, aircrew, maintainers, enthusiasts — to exchange memories. We try to help old buddies find each other -- anything it takes to keep alive the history of the weapon known in its early days as "America's Long Rifle."

## **Association Purpose**

The purpose of the B-52 Stratofortress Association is to document and perpetuate the history of the B-52 Stratofortress aircraft. Activities to this end shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. The accumulation, exchange, and distribution of historical information on the B- 52.
- b. Collection of historical materials relating to the design, development, and operation of the B-52. These materials are currently archived at the Castle Air Museum in Atwater, California.
- c. Publication of a newsletter to inform the active membership of the Associations' activities and to carry out the first activity.
- d. Organize periodic reunions of those who designed, manufactured, maintained, and operated the B-52, as well as anyone with an historical interest in the aircraft
- e. Be a source of commemorative items highlighting the B-52 and its service.
- f. Facilitate renewed and continued fellowship among those who share association with the B-52 Stratofortress

## **Reunion 2026**

Every two years, there is a Rendezvous Reunion of all the members for several days. Last year it was at Tinker AFB OK at the Air Logistics Center where B-52s are modified and upgraded, and also the Boeing B-52J Integration Lab where they are designing the 7-8 mods, including replacing the engines on the jet.

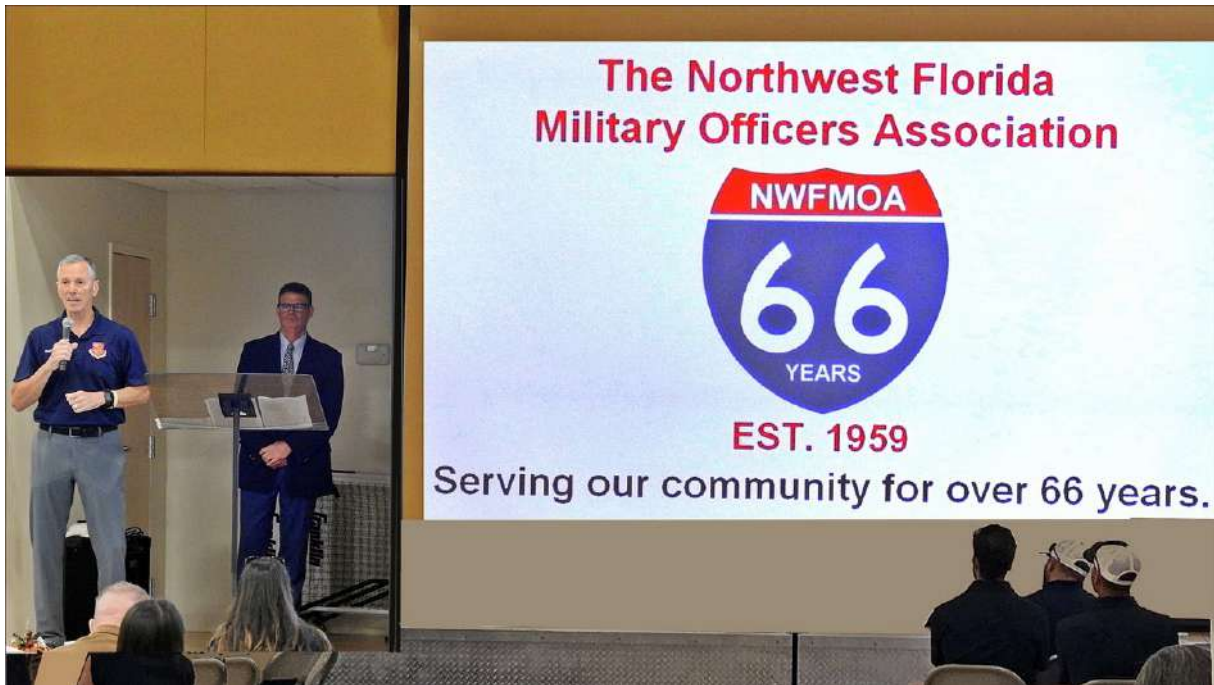
Next year, from 10-13 September 2026, the reunion will be in Seattle Washington. The Tours will include Boeing Facilities, The Museum of Flight, and Pike Place Market. If you join the association, be sure to sign up for the Rendezvous.

If you have any interest in joining the B-52 Association, simply go to the website <https://stratofortress.org> and go to the membership form. It is \$20 for individuals, or \$30 for you and your spouse jointly.

If you have any questions regarding the Association, please call your local area member, Karl Eschmann, at 850-621-7482, or email: [phanfix@cox.net](mailto:phanfix@cox.net).

## Fort Walton Beach Chamber Breakfast

NWFMOA President Fran Hendricks addresses the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce at their First Friday breakfast on September 5th.



## September Speaker

Our guest speaker for September was our own Colonel Dick Solt. Dick continued his interesting, often hilarious talk about his “very different” career. For an “old guy,” he’s still pretty chipper...here he is outrunning the camera man (Editor) attempting to photograph him with president Fran Hendricks.



# Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot



On September 5th, we got a little publicity for both the Scholarship Fund and our chapter Community Outreach programs by having a ‘Spotlight Table’ display at the FWB Chamber’s First Friday breakfast. I was joined by president Fran Hendricks and Fred Westfall in explaining our programs to the over 300 Chamber business attendees at this event. This type of positive marketing should benefit our organizations in receiving donations and in new memberships.



Scholarship Fund activities for the past month have primarily the process of receiving verifications from colleges and ROTC units of our scholarship awardees being enrolled and Treasurer George Colton sending checks to the colleges for the individual scholarship amounts. So far we have processed five scholarships with five more awaiting documentation of enrollments.

I have come up with a new slogan for the JROTC and ROTC cadets who are awarded our scholarships: GO FOR THE GOLD! The ‘gold’ refers to the color of the rank insignia for second lieutenants and ensigns. I will try to incorporate this slogan on future scholarship award certificates as a reminder that the primary objective of our scholarship program is to get these students commissioned as military officers via college ROTC programs.

Below is the complete list of our **Endowed Scholarships**, our **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation) and our **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months, along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. All of these donations are used to fund our scholarships. [Note: (D) means deceased and (R) means Renewal of membership.]

**Endowed Scholarships**: Lt Col Jim and Mrs Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship (D) (via their estate, effective 2018); Dave Parisot in memory of his wife, Chong Cha (Kim) Parisot (effective 2017); Dr (Lt Col, USAF, Ret.) Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher Scholarship (effective 2022); Dr. (Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.) Fred and Mrs. Jan Westfall Scholarship (effective 2023); Col. (USAF, Ret.) Karl and Mrs. Charlotte Eschmann Scholarship (effective 2024); Lt.Col. (USAF, Ret.) Larry Bush in memory of Mrs. Joan Bush (effective 2025); and, Florida Power and Light (effective 2025).

**Gold Century Club**: Bill Ryan (Feb 2016); Ruth Cullen, (D) (Oct 2016); Dave Parisot (Feb 2017); Janet Taylor (Mar 2017); Chris Beam (Mar 2017); Bob Garcia (D) (July 2017); Rod Gerdes (Nov 2017); Larry Bush (Nov 2017); Dr. Howard & Irene Fisher (Nov 2017); Eileen Arpke (D) (Feb 2018); Fred & Jan Westfall (Apr 2018); Clyde Locke (D) (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran Sam Lombardo (D) (July 2018); Dennis Phillips (Aug 2018); Karl & Charlotte Eschmann (Oct 2018); Carol Baker (Jan 2019); Ann Adelsperger (Feb 2019); Don Litke (Aug 2019); Fred Boyer (D) (Aug 2019).Dr. Keith & Elizabeth Kulow (Nov 2019); Al Bills (Nov. 2019); Kay Dent (Nov. 2019); Dr. Roger Riegenbach (Dec 2019); Robert “Pete” Peterzen (Dec 2019); Nick Marotta (Oct 2020); Kathy & Jesse Bush (Dec 2020); Patt & Caroline Maney (Dec 2020); Kevin Kirby (Apr 2021); Scott & Janet Berry (May 2021); Douglas Hardin (D) (Sept 2021); Patrick & Mosla Boab (Dec. 2021); Bob Allen (Feb 2022); Bobbi Hanson Garcia (Mar 2022); Joy Houck (Mar 2022); George Colton (May 2022); Bob Secrest (May 2022); Brig. Gen Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks (Oct 2022); Les Matheson (Feb 2023); Dan Brown (April 2023); Tess Bass (August 2023); Bob Gramm (Dec 2023); Larry Tashlik (Dec 2023); Jean Dutton (D) (Oct 2024) and Jeff Watson (Oct 2024); Dick Solt (Mar 2025); Michael Barnes (Apr 2025) [Note: 46 total members]

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club**: (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): August 2024: Bob Cluskey (R); Scott & Janet Berry (R); Chuck Merkel (R); and Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Eileen Arpke); October 2024: Dave Parisot (In memory of Jean Dutton); Jeff Watson (R); November 2024: Kay Dent (R); Pete Peterzen (R); and Karl and Charlotte Eschmann (R); Fred and Jan Westfall (R); Bob Gramm (R); Howard Fisher (R); and Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Chong Parisot); January 2025: Dr. Keith and Elizabeth Kulow (R); Janet Taylor (R) (in honor of Bill Ryan).and, Dave Parisot (R)(in memory of Lydia O’Connor). February 2025: Rod Gerdes (R); Al Bills (R), and Dave Parisot (R) (in memory of Doris Day). March 2025: Dick Solt (R); Brig Gen Fran & Mrs Connie Hendricks (R); Chris Beam (R). April 2025: Dennis Phillips (R); Michael Barnes; and Dave Parisot (R) (In memory of Angela Colton); May 2025: Michael Barnes (R); Kevin Kirby (R); Bob Gramm (R); Patrick and Mosla Boab (R); Dr. Howard and Mrs. Irene Fisher

(R); June 2025: **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Col. Jake Bush); July 2025: **George Colton** (R) (In memory of Angela Colton).

2024/2025 Business Platinum Donors: (\$1,000+): Nov. 2024: **Bass, Byrd & Associates at Merrill Lynch of FWB** (R); Apr. 2025: **Florida Power & Light** (R); **Eglin Federal Credit Union** (R).



(Bass, Byrd, & Associates)



2025 Business Gold Donors (\$500 - \$749): April 2025: **GSS Gear FWB, LLC** (R); **Daisy Day Brands**; and, **Step One Automotive Group** (R).

2025 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): March 2025: **Lisa Jo Spencer, PA, Attorney** (R).

2025 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): April 2025: **Eye M.D. of Niceville. LLC**.

[Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.](#)

### **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund: “HELPING TO BUILD FUTURE MILITARY OFFICERS AND LEADERS”**

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**To make a contribution to the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund Click Here.**

# **And Remember... Never Stop Serving**

# Legislative Corner



## Legislative Corner...MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action Campaign

During our August meeting, I discussed MOAA's initiatives concerning the Health Care Fairness for Military Act. Below is the letter I sent to our two Senators and Congressman, which was generated by accessing the "MOAA Take Action" feature on the NWFMOA website and completing the legislative action steps as prompted. The signature block was modified to indicate collective concern and support for this effort. Thank you for your continued advocacy on these significant issues.

Dear Senator Moody,

I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor the Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act, to ensure military kids transitioning to adulthood have the same health care protections as their peers in civilian families. This bill brings TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements for young adult coverage that have existed for more than a decade by eliminating monthly premiums for TRICARE Young Adult coverage.

Commercial plans offering dependent child coverage are required to make the coverage available until the adult child reaches age 26. There is no separate premium for families who elect to keep adult children on commercial plans. This protects young adults' access to affordable health care even if they elect to pursue advanced degrees, attend trade school, or face barriers to obtaining their own employer-sponsored coverage.

In contrast, TRICARE policy terminates coverage for young adults at age 21 (or 23 if a full-time college student). The TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) plan extends coverage to age 26, but unlike commercial plans, TYA enrollees are required by law to cover the full cost of the program via a separate monthly premium. For 2025, the monthly premium is \$727 for TYA Prime and \$337 for TYA Select.

The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act addresses this inequity by allowing dependents up to the age of 26 to remain covered by their parents' TRICARE benefit without a separate premium.

The young adults currently impacted by this coverage gap grew up through two decades of war. They faced combat deployments and lengthy family separations together with frequent moves that required them to change schools and make new friends every few years. It is critical that military families who have sacrificed so much in support of our nation have a comprehensive health plan – one that includes the same protections for their kids transitioning to adulthood as civilian families covered by commercial health plans. Please consider co-sponsoring the Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act, to fix the TRICARE young adult coverage gap.

Thank you for your consideration.

Here to Serve,

Brigadier General Fran Hendricks, USAF Retired  
54th President, Northwest Florida Military Officers Association

## Surviving Spouse Corner

Chaplains Ray Alexander and Tom Azar have created a number of excellent resources for Surviving Spouses and it is on our website. Be sure to check it out by clicking on the link below. Or visit our [website](#) and click on [Surviving Spouses](#) at the top of the page.

[Click here for Surviving Spouse Information](#)

## Time To Pay Your Dues

**It is time to pay your 2025 dues.** And, if you haven't done so already, it is way past time to pay your 2024 dues. Please make a check for the amount payable for the next year or beyond.

- Not sure if you owe dues? Click [HERE](#).
- If you owe dues, click [HERE](#) to fill form and send it along with your check to **Treasurer, PO Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579.**
- You can also now pay your dues by **credit card**. To do that, click [HERE](#).

### OUR MISSION

The mission of NWFMOA is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Defender is a monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association. The purpose of this publication is to communicate with, inform, and educate chapter members. The national MOAA, this local chapter, and this publication are totally nonpartisan.



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at every stage.**

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**Wear your shirt proudly.**

### Here is another option...

Looking for a NWFMOA Chapter shirt. In addition to ordering a shirt, you can also buy your own polo shirt (short or long sleeve) and take it to [American Athletic Uniforms, Inc](#) ([90 Eastview Ave, Valparaiso, FL](#)) to have it embroidered with our patch and your name. Cost of embroidery (Patch + Name) is \$15.





# The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America

[Click to read the FCoC Communiqué](#)

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
8 & 11A TRADITIONS  
9:30A BLENDED  
11:07A CONTEMPORARY



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1 Meigs Drive Shalimar, FL 32579  
www.shalimar.church  
850-651-1022

Sunday Worship  
Traditional @ 8:00 AM  
Contemporary @ 10:45 AM





## Important Things To Remember

What	What to Click
Make a reservation for our monthly luncheon.	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Join NWFMOA	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Join MOAA	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Send feedback or comments about the Defender	<a href="mailto:bobgramm5@gmail.com">bobgramm5@gmail.com</a>



**Update Your Contact Information**

**Is Your Personal Information Up to Date?**

If any of your vital information has changed, like if you've moved and have a new mailing address, or a new phone number or email address, please use the Update Your Information link on our NWFMOA website.

The link is [http://nwfmoa.org/info\\_update.html](http://nwfmoa.org/info_update.html)

The information you provide helps us keep in touch with you and is ONLY used by the NWFMOA

**And Remember...**  
**Never Stop Serving**



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