



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 31 No 12

Serving all Branches of The Uniformed Services

December 2025

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thursday **December 4th**
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200, Program to follow
Place: Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: **Opus One**

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 nwfmoo.flmooa.org and select the link "Click here to make reservations", or email nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call Fred Westfall at 850-609-8075 to make a reservation.

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NWFMOA Tradition: Opus One



Please make your reservations to join us on **December 4th** for our December NWFMOA lunch at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. This month we will again have our traditional December event, which is always outstanding. **Opus One** is the Niceville High School's choral group and will start our holiday season by performing beautiful classics as well as other fun music selections. This is a must-attend meeting. Please plan to join us for what is always a great performance.

The next night, **December 5th**, the Crispy Warriors have invited NWFMOA members to join them in celebrating Christmas at the Rocky Bayou Country Club. This will be an outstanding evening of great food and camaraderie. Please see the included [flyer](#) for the menu, cost, and where to send your check. We will also be raffling off a gorgeous [wreath](#) created by Connie Hendricks.

Our **December 4th** lunch will start with a social gathering at 1130 with lunch to be served at 1200. To make reservations click [HERE](#) or go to the [NWFMOA webpage](#) and select the Meal Reservations link. You may also call Karl Eschmann at 850-621-7482 or send an email to nwfreservations@gmail.com.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** and must be made by no later than **November 29th**.

Please Note: If you make a reservation but are a no-show, you may be charged for your meal. You may cancel a reservation using the same sign-up form.

From the President's Pen

By Fran Hendricks



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NWFMOA Community Outreach Earns 501(c)3 Status

Community outreach has always been a point of focus for NWFMOA. In recent years we have added programs such as Valentines for Veterans, Military Family Appreciation Day, Commissary Gift Card Program for Junior Enlisted Families in Need, and Wreaths Across America. Each of these programs has proven to be a huge success due to the trust afforded our Chapter by the community we serve.

Valentines for Veterans married Longwood Elementary School with Bob Hope Village. This past February we celebrated our third year leading this event. Just last month, we partnered for the second consecutive year with Zaxby's and gave away 25 (\$20) Zaxby's Gift Cards during the Military Family Appreciation Day at the Fort Walton Beach Landing. Zaxby's has agreed to partner with us again next year. 2025 will mark our sixth year providing Commissary Gift Cards to Junior Enlisted Families in need during the Holidays. Last year we raised \$10,000 and reached 400 families. Since 2020, 1,298 Junior Enlisted Families have been assisted. This year we are on track to reach 600 families in this ultra

impactful program. Lastly, on December 13th we will mark the graves of fallen Veterans entombed at Beal Memorial Cemetery with a wreath. Our Chapter purchased 150 wreaths from Wreaths Across America earlier this year.

Because of our ongoing community outreach efforts and track record of delivering results, the NWFMOA Board determined it was time to take the formal step and apply for 501(c)3 status. Dave Parisot led our effort ...he drafted the required documents and submitted them for certification. The IRS approved our request on September 25, 2025, and issued us an EIN (39-4351621) for the NWFMOA Community Outreach Fund INC. As such, the Chapter is a 501(c)19 (Veteran Organization) with two 501(c)3s...the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund INC and the NWFMOA Community Outreach Fund INC... under its umbrella. This new certification further acknowledges and validates our commitment to serve those presently serving, those who have served, and those who have expressed a desired to serve.

NWFMOA is a special organization, and I am proud to count myself among its members.

H2S (Here to Serve),

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

Christmas Party with the Crispy Warriors

The Crispy Warriors have graciously invited NWFMOA members to join them at their annual Christmas Party. You still have time to make reservations by clicking [HERE](#). Here are the party details; the Wreath raffle details are on the next page:

You're Invited To

**The Crispy Warriors &
Northwest Florida Military Officers Association
Christmas Party**

Friday, December 5th, 2025

- **Cocktail Hour:** 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- **Dinner:** 6:00 PM
- **Special Performance by the Opus One Singers:** 7:45 PM

Location: Rocky Bayou Country Club

Dress: Ladies - festive holiday attire
Men - coat and tie, Mess Dress optional

Menu:

- **Starters:** Caesar Salad or Smoked Tomato Soup with Shrimp
- **Dinner Buffet:**
 - Chicken Picatta with Lemon Caper Cream over Penne Pasta
 - Herb Rubbed Prime Rib with Au Jus & Horseradish
 - Salmon with Lemon Dill Cream
 - Garlic Mashed Potatoes
 - Sautéed Baby Green Beans
 - Oven Roasted Broccoli
- **Desserts:** Assorted holiday cheese cake, brownies, and cakes
- **Drinks:** Full Cash Bar available

Cost: \$90 per person

**RSVP by November 28 to Larry Hines (hineslk@aol.com)
or Jeff Marken (jeff.marken@gmail.com)**

Make checks out to **Larry Hines** and mail to him at:
770 Harbor Blvd, Unit 8B, Destin, FL 32541
Call Larry at 850-865-4108 with any questions.

Come to Party and Celebrate Our Blessings!

Win this Beautiful Wreath



This gorgeous wreath was created and donated by Connie Hendricks. It will be raffled off at the Crispy Warriors and NWFMOA Christmas party on December 5th. All funds raised will be split between the Crispy Warriors and the NWFMOA Community Outreach Fund Inc.

Ticket cost:

- 1 ticket - \$5
- 3 tickets - \$10
- 7 tickets - \$20

You can purchase tickets

- from President Fran Hendricks any time
- at the December 4th luncheon
- at the December 5th party

You do not need to be present to win; Fran will ensure the wreath is delivered to the winner!

Thursday, January 29, 2026

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 November winner was Jeff Watson who was present to win his free December 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](#)

Welcome Aboard



This month we welcome new member Guy Bourn. Guy Bourn is a retired U.S. Army Major General with a rewarding military and post-military career. He was born in Lexington, Nebraska in 1952, graduated from high school in North Dakota, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1974, the Naval Post Graduate School in 1984 and the National War College in 1997. He served in the Field Artillery and commanded at every level from First Lieutenant to Brigadier General.

His assignments included travel with the Secretary of State for two years. During that time he was on the team negotiating the end of the Kosovo bombing campaign in 1998. After promotion to Major General he served as Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation in Egypt. He retired from the Army in 2004 to accept a position in international port operations as the Vice President of Sokhna Port in Egypt. He returned to the US in 2007 and was Vice President of Business Development at Orbital ATK, a defense contractor.

He has supported numerous military and veteran organizations, including the STM (Steak Team Mission) serving steak meals to troops around the world. He was President of the U.S. Field Artillery Association, board member of the Marshal Legacy Institute which provided mine detection dogs to countries worldwide and board member of the West Point Society of Washington DC. He lives in Regatta Bay, Destin with his wife, Sandy.

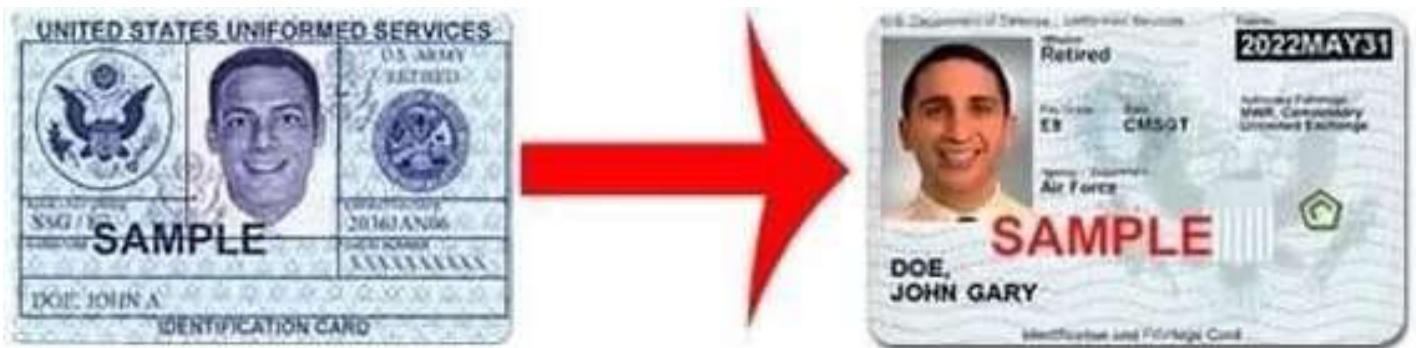


Call to Action 25-01

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.

Update: The December 31, 2025 implementation date mentioned in the article 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
54th President, NWFMOA

Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar



Let us continue to thank God for the many blessings we have as Americans by giving to those less fortunate

Every family enjoys Christmas together. While serving on active duty, many of us missed their special religious and family traditions. As retired veterans we appreciate them more now because we were absent over the years. However, the ones spent apart still have a special place in our heart.

During Desert Storm, in the midst of sand and sea, on full alert, several airmen were able to create the most unusual Christmas tree, plus find a guitar and rally the troops to sing Christmas songs.

The CC asked my team for an ecumenical service. A few volunteers sang carols, read the Nativity Scriptures, which was followed by a message and communion. We had no juice or bread so we creatively used the raisins and crackers in our MREs in the blistering afternoon heat. It represented a very special Lord's Supper. We were close to Bethlehem and the Savior's world.

You probably had similar experiences. Spending it with your deployed brothers and sisters made it feel like a family event. Thousands of miles from home, the inner meaning of the holidays surfaced and gave us a deeper, more genuine experience. Our fellowship, camaraderie and common purpose were the unique 'gifts' we shared, far from shopping malls and elegant dining.

We were able to cook up some mystery chow from our MRE's, as soldiers, sailors and airmen gave their faith testimony and told stories about what Christmas meant to them, and what they will do when they return home. I learned later how many families like my own, kept their tree up till the summer so they could celebrate as a family with their deployed parent.

Later that evening I went to the food drop off box next to our chapel tent and found there were many leftover donated MRE contents, such as tabasco sauce, gum, cheese and crackers, candy, toilet paper, cookies etc. I asked the commander if it would be appropriate in the spirit of Christmas, to take the contents to the perimeter fence to our host nation troops working across the flight line.

He made a call and gave the OK. My translator and I jumped into the humvee and headed to the ECP.

As we drove across the white sands, we passed the lights and generators by the hammerhead. We pulled up to the ECP. The translator spoke to the security guards telling them we had some snacks for their troops. He made a call to his superior who came over and appreciatively took and emptied the three boxes into a barrel, thanking us for the 'holiday gifts.'

It was a simple and rewarding gesture of sharing, so we thought. We felt good, but for a short time. We started driving back to our tents.

As we followed the perimeter fence there appeared several children yelling. I asked the translator what were they saying? "They want us to stop," he said.

Two of the boys asked in their native tongue, "Can they have the boxes?"

Through the translator I told them “Sorry, we gave everything to the troops.”

They paused and nervously responded, “No...no... we do not want what stuff was in the boxes, we only want the cardboard”.

Dumbfounded I asked, “why?”

They responded, “We want the empty boxes so we can make a floor for our home!”

We felt at a loss and ashamed. We have in our possessions more than we will ever need; they have nothing. They sleep on dirt floors.

As I prayed that night I caught heaven’s unforgettable gift. For chaplains are always sharing the message with others, but God had a special message for me! Jesus was born on a dirt floor, on a cold night and in a distant land. I needed this “sermon experience,” delivered by children and with a few words.

I celebrate with you our Creator God’s breaking into human history and gifting us forgiveness and love through the grace of His only begotten Son who was born of a virgin. Jesus the Christ taught, healed, guided and brought us into a reconciled relationship with Almighty God, so we could be with our neighbor.

The inner meaning of Christmas is being grateful to God for this amazing love gift, and “giving to the least of our brethren.” Let us continue to thank God for the many blessings we have as Americans by giving to those less fortunate.

As God broke into human history, is there a way you can break into the history of another person by showing them the fruitful gifts of our Christian life—Peace, Joy, Kindness, Goodness, Love, Patience, Gentleness and Love?

In this joyous season of our earthly life I pray we can empty our swollen ‘boxes’ and touch others with the essential gifts that produce eternal results. Mary and I pray you have a meaningful and blessed Christmas.

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

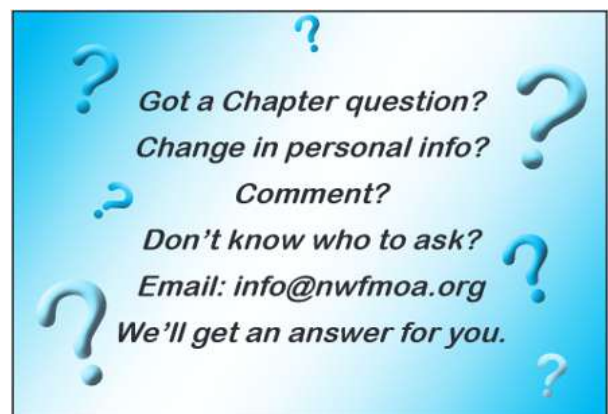
Donald L. Marks, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)

James B. Randels, Col, USAF (Ret)

New Members

Guy M. Bourn, MG, USA (Ret)

Jeremy Nevarez Suarez, CPT, USA





Donors for the 66th Anniversary Banner



[Click here](#) to see the banner on our webpage

Organizational Donors (Monetary or In-Kind Donations)

Tactical Assessment Consultants
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 Fisher & Fisher Attorneys at Law
 A Perfect Balance
 Harvey F. Eckoff VFW Post 7674
 Zaxby's Chicken
 Playground Corvette Club
 Air & Space Force Association
 Shalimar Family Dentistry

Cutoff Barber Shop
 Knights of Columbus Fr. Howard J. Lesch Assy.
 BOTE
 Emerald Coast Olive Oil
 Merrill Lynch - Tess Bass and Associates
 The Mistys - Vietnam 1967-1970
 LJ Schooners - Dockside Restaurant & Oyster Bar
 United Way of the Emerald Coast
 Emerald Bay Golf Club
 VFW Post 7674 Auxiliary

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 Steve Bond
 Pat and Mary Kluever
 Major General Don Litke
 Larry Bush
 John and JoAnne Wambough
 Fred and Jan Westfall
 Fran and Connie Hendricks

**Thank
 You
 All**

Community Outreach

November Speaker

Dewey “Parker” Destin was our guest speaker at the November NWFMOA Chapter Luncheon. Parker is a 6th generation Floridian. He grew up commercial fishing and operating restaurants with his family before receiving his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Tampa in 2007. Parker graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2012 and is admitted to the Bar in the State of Florida. As a life-long student of Florida History, Mr. Destin has worked to preserve Florida’s historical heritage through passing local preservation incentives, as an elected official (Okaloosa County School Board, District 2), and digitizing documents from Florida’s Revolutionary War period for public access. He currently owns and operates restaurants in Northwest Florida.



He provided a very interesting historical perspective of “what was happening in our area during the Revolutionary War.”



President Fran Hendricks presents our guest speaker, Dewey "Parker" Destin with our commemorative coin.

Military Family Appreciation Day

The NWFMOA in partnership with Zaxby's Chicken participated in the 2025 Military Family Appreciation Day event at the Fort Walton Beach Landing.

Over 200 people of all ages participated in the corn hole toss. We gave away 25 Gift Cards from Zaxby's Chicken to the lucky winners. Each card was valued at \$20. Some of the contestants and winners along with NWFMOA members are pictured below. **Thank you Zaxby's Chicken!**



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.



Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot



Greetings from the Island Princess cruise ship as I am completing my 16-day cruise of the Panama Canal. Sailed from Los Angeles and ended in Fort Lauderdale.

For my article this month, I want to update you on the status of our Scholarship Program. We currently have 18 scholarship awardees in college ROTC programs (freshman thru senior year), with one more entering college and ROTC in January 2026

Looking forward to our 2026 scholarships to be awarded on May 7th, 2026, at our annual scholarship luncheon, we hope to award at least eight 2-year scholarships (at \$6,000 each) to local JROTC cadets, and hope to award at least six new ROTC scholarships to junior and senior year cadets at \$4,000 each.

The primary objective of the NWFMOA Scholarship Program is to have these cadets get commissioned in any of the military services. In the past four years, 13 of our previous scholarship awardees have been commissioned as second lieutenants or ensigns in either the active or reserve forces. We have one senior ROTC cadet who will be commissioned in May 2026.

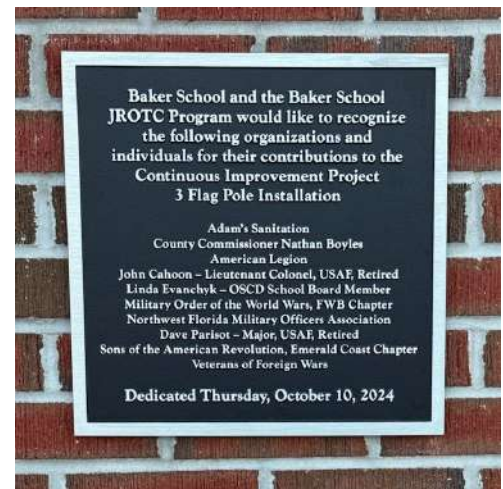
Of course, we cannot fund these scholarships without the generous donations of our Chapter members (see Century Club members below), and our local business sponsors (see Business Sponsors below). In particular, those Chapter members and businesses who are each funding individual scholarships (See list below).

A 'shout out', also, to your Scholarship Fund Board of Directors who have provided the guidance to gradually expand the number of scholarships and the dollar values over the past 12 years. We went from five scholarships totaling \$7,500 in 2015 to our highest award to date of nine scholarships valued at \$55,000 in May 2025. We anticipate increasing these figures in May 2026. Your Scholarship Board members and years on the board are: Bob Allen (13+); George Colton (12); Dave Parisot (12); Fred Westfall (11); Karl Eschmann (5); Charles Farmer, JROTC Instructor (3); and, Kevin Kirby (2). Past Board members during this period are Les Matheson and Fran Hendricks.

In addition to scholarships, we started a program four years ago to our JROTC high schools called Educational Support Grants (ESGs) of \$500 each. Each JROTC unit can apply for one ESG each school year to fund educational projects and events which are not funded by either the school district or the parent service JROTC program. To date, we have awarded a total of ten ESGs totaling \$5,000.



One of those grants was to the Baker High School JROTC program to help support their flag pole project (left) which was completed in October 2024. Baker High School recently added a plaque thanking those who helped provide funding including NWFMOA and Dave Parisot.



If you have mailed a donation to the Scholarship Fund in the past month, I will credit those when I collect my mail after I return from my cruise. You may also donate by credit card via our website at nwfmoa.org/Scholarship Fund or by check by filling out the form and mailing it.

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); **Robert Peterson** (Nov 2025) [Note: 47 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): 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”

THE NWFMOA SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC, IS A 501C(3) CORPORATION. DONATIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT AS PROVIDED BY LAW. REGISTRATION # CH20374. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FL DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING (800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA OR VIA THEIR WEBSITE OF [HTTPS://WWW.FDACS.GOV/CONSUMERSERVICES](https://www.fdacs.gov/consumerservices) REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. IRS FEIN is 59-3434498

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

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

Legislative Corner



Legislative Corner...Pay our Troops Act of 2026

During our November lunch meeting, I discussed bill (H.R. 5401, The Pay Our Troops Act of 2026) that MOAA is advocating for Congress to pass. The bill would protect servicemembers' pay in the event of a government shutdown. It would guarantee members of the Armed Forces, which statutorily includes the Coast Guard, continue to receive pay and allowances during any lapse in appropriations in FY2026.

While not part of this bill, MOAA continues to advocate for full parity across all eight uniformed services, including the commissioned corps of both the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA.

Servicemembers and their families stand ready to serve through any crisis. Congress must provide them the certainty of uninterrupted pay so they can remain focused on the mission, not potential financial hardship.

Paying our troops is not optional, it a national obligation.

I invite you to express your support for this bill by submitting a letter to our Representative. Please visit the [NWFMOA website](#) and select the [MOAA Take Action](#) button to participate in this effort. The letter will self-generate, and you can edit to your liking.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

H2S (Here to Serve),

Brig Gen Fran Hendricks, USAF Retired

54th President, NWFMOA

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.

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](#).



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NWFMOA Shirt Purchase Options



The advertisement features a teal banner with three circular icons: a spool of thread for 'EMBROIDERY', a screen for 'SCREEN PRINTING', and a shirt for 'UNIFORMS'. Below the banner is the 'DDB' logo with the text 'Daisy Day Brands' and 'EMBROIDERY • SCREEN PRINTING • UNIFORMS'. To the right, the address '310 Eglin Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547' and phone number '850-664-2113' are listed. At the bottom, the slogan 'Wear your shirt proudly.' is written in red.

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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.



Never Stop Serving



The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

[Click to read the FCoC Communiqué](#)

**Click here to join the
Military Officers Association of America
Basic membership is FREE**

Need more reasons to join MOAA? How about these...

- Legislative News Updates & Advocacy Efforts
- MOAA Newsletters
- Chapter & Council Membership & Involvement
- Exclusive Travel Discounts on Products & Travel
- Access to Member Books & Guides
- Financial Education and Consumer Advice
- Scholarships, Interest-free Loans & Grants
- Expert Advice on Military Pay & Benefits
- Career Transition Resources
- Subscription to Military Officer Magazine & Exclusive Publications
- Spouse Protection
- Fee Significantly Reduced at Army & Navy Club of Washington, D.C.

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**If You Belong to the NWFMOA, You ARE
Part Of The Solution**

[Click here to join the NWFMOA](#)

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P.O. Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579

AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social cultural, professional and service activities that extend for the local to national levels.

Today's Date _____

 Last Name First Name Initial

 Spouse Phone

 Address City State & Zip Code

 Email Address

 Rank Service MOAA Member Number

Regular Reserve National Guard Active Duty Retired

This application is for:

Life Member New Member Renewal Surviving Spouse Auxiliary Associate

Make Checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn. Inc. Check here is you do not want your name, phone number, or email address listed in the printed chapter directories. Membership includes a subscription to *The Defender* for the dues period. We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.

Membership Application/ Renewal

New Members joining this year receive membership through December 31 next year for \$25.00

Membership Renewal
1 yr--\$25.00, 2 yr--\$48.00, 3 yr--\$65.00

Life Membership Dues

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	<50	395.00

Effective in 2026, Surviving Spouses receive a FREE Life Membership.

Join Us Today



Important Things To Remember

What	What to Click
Make a reservation for our monthly luncheon.	Click Here
Join NWFMOA	Click Here
Join MOAA	Click Here
Send feedback or comments about the Defender	bobgramm5@gmail.com



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

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



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