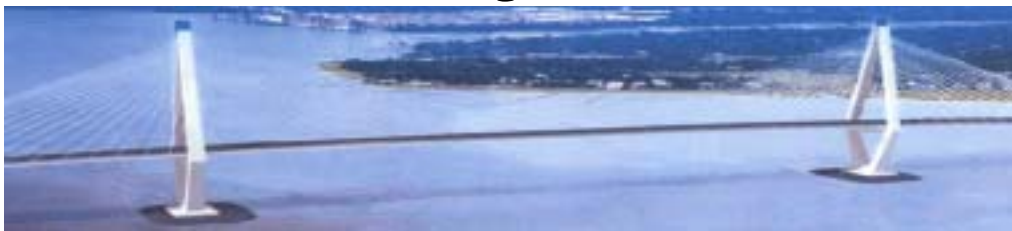


# Bridge View



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

April 2007



Web site: [www.chasmoaa.org](http://www.chasmoaa.org)



## Public Health Service Uniformed Commissioned Corps

The origins of the Public Health Service (PHS) may be traced to the passage of an act in 1798 that provided for the care and relief of sick and injured merchant seamen.

The uniformed services component of the Marine Hospital Service was formalized as the Commissioned Corps by legislation enacted in 1889. At first open only to physicians, over the course of the twentieth century, the Corps expanded to include dentists, sanitary engineers, pharmacists, nurses, sanitarians, scientists, and other health professionals.

The scope of activities of the Marine Hospital Service also began to expand well beyond the care of merchant seamen in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, beginning with the control of infectious disease. Responsibility for quarantine was originally a function of the states rather than the Federal Government, but the National Quarantine Act of 1878 conferred quarantine authority on the Marine Hospital Service. Over the course of the next half a century, the Marine Hospital Service increasingly took over quarantine functions from state authorities.

Because of the broadening responsibilities of the Service, its name was changed in 1902 to the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and again in 1912 to just the Public Health Service. The Service continued to expand its public health activities as the nation entered the twentieth century, with the Commissioned Corps leading the way.

One of the Seven Uniform Services of MOAA

**Response to my letter to Senator De Mint concerning the care that our wounded servicemen and women and their living conditions at Walter Reed Medical Center. (Editor)**

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concern over conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and health facilities throughout the Army healthcare system. I appreciate hearing from you. As you know, much attention has been brought to the conditions at Walter Reed through a Washington Post article on February 18, 2007. This article detailed how wounded soldiers were encountering substandard conditions and bureaucratic red tape.

Like you, I am concerned by these issues and am encouraged steps are being taken to fix this situation. Walter Reed's commander, General George Weightman, was relieved of his command, while Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates announced the resignations of Secretary of the Army, Francis Harvey and Surgeon General of the Army, General Kevin Kiley. In addition, the Army announced the formation of an Army investigation team that will travel to 11 Army health facilities to inspect conditions and ensure these facilities meet the standards required for our returning wounded warriors.

Also, on March 6, 2007, The Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on care, living conditions, and administration of outpatients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. This information will help Congress address the areas most needing reform and additional oversight.

In addition to the Army healthcare system's problems, we should not pass this opportunity to focus on the Veteran's Affairs (VA) healthcare system as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Who's This Month's MOAA Profile  
See Page Three

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
**Cdr. John E Nolan ( SC) USN**

**Military Health Care Protection Act**

Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) I in February introduced their “Military Health Care Protection Acct” (S-604). The Bill would:

\* Establish in law the unique roll of military health benefits in offsetting the extraordinary demands inherent in a military career.

\*Establish that, in addition to their cash costs-shares, the military pre-pay large up-front premiums for their lifetime health coverage through decades of service and sacrifice.

Bar the TRICARE Prime enrollment fee and TRICARE pharmacy co-pays from being increased in any year by a percentage that exceeds the percentage increase in military retired pay.

\* Bar TRICARE Reserve Select premiums from being increased by a percentage that exceeds the most recent basic pay increase.

\*Bar any enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard or any increase in the TRICARE Standard inpatient co-pay.

Last year, a similar initiative by Lautenberg and Hagel was crucial in defeating large TRICARE fee hikes. Both are passionate about their continued determination to reject and defeat defense budget proposals which would cut TRICARE costs by \$1.8 billion in FY 2008 by raising fees for retirees under age 65 by up to \$1,000 a year. Hagel, who sits on the Armed Services Committee, called the proposal “ridiculous”. Lautenberg pledged to use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to prevent the fee hikes. MOAA and the Military Coalition’s gratitude to the two Senators and pledged support to promote and enact the new bill.-

**Surgeons General Blast Health Budgeting**

Top service medical officers expressed their frustrations with the DoD health budgeting process before the Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care.

Army Surgeon General LTG Kevin Kiley and Navy Surgeon General VADM Donald Turner expressed their dissatisfaction with “efficiency wedges”, or budget cuts, that DoD imposes on them each year. An “efficiency wedge” is a budget euphemism for, “We’re cutting your budget by X amount and it’s up to you to find ways to stay within that lower amount by becoming “more efficient”.

VADM Arthur said there was “ no rational thought behind the cuts,” indicating they’re simply a way to pay for private sector care and don’t actually make the services any more efficient. The SGs agreed that the one way to make military health care more efficient would be for military hospitals and clinics to recapture more of the primary care workload that’s now being addressed in civilian care networks. There is capacity in military facilities that’s being paid for not being used.

VADM Arthur took issue with the current strategy of increasing fees and co-pays for the TRICARE program. He offered a presentation entitled “Can Not Break Promises”, and said he was uncomfortable with assuming savings from pushing retirees out of TRICARE, which does nothing to address actual health care cost increases. LTG Kiley commented that fee/co-pays increases do not have to be so quick and should only be small increases.



**LCDR Elinor Kessel, USN (NC) Retired**  
**Navy Nurse**  
**World Traveler**  
**MOAA Member**



Most people who serve in the military become acquainted with moving vans early in their careers, but retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Elinor Kessel may have set a record.

“In 22 years I had 15 duty stations,” Elinor said recently. What’s more, she spent two of those 22 years in the Navy Reserve. That means she served at those 15 duty stations across a span of 20 years on active duty.



And she remained single throughout her career as a Navy nurse.

“There was no reason for it (staying single),” she said. Other than the fact that she enjoyed her career “and was having a wonderful time.”

“Most people who knew me then think of me as Elinor Sterling,” her maiden name, she said. She was born in Church Hill, Md., a small town on Maryland’s eastern shore. Her father was the town pharmacist and “we all worked at the soda fountain.”

Elinor graduated from high school in Church Hill and attended Salisbury State Teachers College for a year. She then enrolled in nursing school at the Wilmington, Del., hospital. She became a registered nurse in 1944 and worked in civilian hospitals for several years before joining the Navy in 1952.

“I can remember as a child that I always wanted to be a nurse,” Elinor said. “I had wonderful parents who encouraged me all the way.”

Elinor joined the Navy at Philadelphia but quickly moved to Portsmouth, Va., the Navy’s oldest hospital. From Portsmouth, she moved on to the West Coast, first at San Diego, then to Yokosuka, Japan. She still owns several items from Japan, including a ceramic bowl she asked a Navy corpsman to buy for her.

“I didn’t know much about bargaining,” she said.

Elinor’s next assignment will never be seen again. She was posted to the USS Gen. W. A. Mann, a troop transport that also carried dependents.

“It carried about 3,000 troops,” she said, “and it carried two nurses because of the dependents.”

Ships like the Mann have all been decommissioned and nurses today will never work in that environment.

The rest of Elinor’s career reads like a railroad timetable. Included are Pensacola, Adak (Alaska), Long Beach, Taipei, Charleston, Morocco and Memphis, Tenn. She even spent three months in Eritrea, which was then part of Ethiopia. While there, she saw Haile Selassie, Ethiopia’s last emperor.

Elinor’s ancestors include a ship’s captain during the American Revolution and a Confederate blockade runner during the Civil War. All of which may explain why she opted for a career in the Navy. She retired in 1974 and insists she “hasn’t worked a day for pay” since.

She fell in love with Charleston during her posting here and has lived here since retiring. She married Raymond Kessel, in Charleston, in 1999 but he passed away four years later.

She spends much of her time volunteering with her church, First Baptist of Mount Pleasant. She also shares in the lives of her niece and three small children who live 10 minutes away. And, she’s been a member of MOAA since the 1970s.

“I keep busy and the Lord’s been very good to me,” she said.

And MOAA’s glad she’s here.



## **Spring ROTC Awards Gets Early Start Volunteer Presenters Still Wanted**

The MOAA Charleston Chapter's recognition of outstanding Senior and Junior ROTC cadets got off to an early start this season at Baptist Hill High School on Saturday evening, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

MOAA recognizes two cadets in each of the area's high school JROTC programs each year, and provides an award for each Senior ROTC service at the Citadel and Charleston Southern.

The annual Baptist Hill JROTC awards ceremony and dance was quite a big event for many of the young men and women of the rural Yorges Island/Hollywood area, and they showed up "dressed to the nines" for this gala.

The event was hosted Sergeant Major John Kuntz, the Senior Army Instructor, and the guest speaker was the departing senior Army National Guard recruiter for the area, Master Sergeant Hutto.

Retired Colonel Steve Rowe, MOAA's Deputy Director for Awards, presented MOAA's Outstanding Cadet medal and certificate to Cadet First Sergeant Keont'e K. Gadsden, and a 50 dollar check for Outstanding Leadership to Cadet Colonel Ashley L. Mitchell.

There are still approximately 18 opportunities to be a MOAA presenter at one or more of the upcoming awards ceremonies. The events are usually on a weekday, some in daytime and some in the evening, during April or May.

Typically, a coat and tie is the accepted attire; your uniform might be appropriate if coordinated ahead of time, and if you and it meet regulations for wear (yes, I'm smiling with you on that!).

Thanks to MOAA members who have already volunteered to present awards, including Cliff Abbey, Rudy Smart, Terry Joyce, and Butch Fuller.

We welcome additional presenters for these enjoyable events! Volunteers can contact:

**Steve Rowe,**  
303-7438,  
E-mail [srowe@prucar.com](mailto:srowe@prucar.com), or

**John "Pappy" Griffin,**  
(843) 767-8575,  
e-mail [papgriffin@yahoo.com](mailto:papgriffin@yahoo.com).

### **New VA Internet site:**



The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center has a new Internet site, [www.charleston.va.gov](http://www.charleston.va.gov), which offers a wealth of information to assist veterans. The Web site offers general information about the facility, as well as specific information about subject, such as eligibility, release of information, billing and insurance, driving directions, how to schedule cancel an appointment, how to refill a prescription, visitor information, contact phone numbers and much more valuable information.



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## The Presidents Pen



"The wine tasting which was tentatively scheduled for 27 April is cancelled; consequently there will be no April event. Although I contacted several restaurants, most of the prices quoted were too costly. I have discovered some additional places which appear to be more reasonable and I will continue to try to arrange a wine tasting for the June event.

The Independent Transportation Network Charleston Trident (IDTNCT) is seeking an Executive Director. This is a paid position with a benefits package. If anyone is interested in this position please contact ITN directly at (843) 225-2715.

The Cooper River Bridge Run and Walk will be held on Saturday 31 March. Several Marine ROTC cadets from the Citadel will participate in the run wearing BDU's, combat boots and 50 lb. rucksacks in an effort to raise money for the "Injured Marine SEMPER FI Fund", a nonprofit organization which assists all members of the Armed Forces.

The next scheduled chapter event will be the River Dogs baseball game and picnic on 19 May at Joe Riley Stadium. The picnic begins at 6:00 PM and the ballgame starts at 7:00 PM. This is also Armed Forces Day so come out, enjoy the food and game and recognize and support our fellow service members both active and retired.



Chapter President and Friends

## Help Our Chapter Help Low Country Kids



We are selling decals and license plates and the profits from these sales will go back to the community through programs such as the annual Toys for Tots program.

These beautiful red, white and blue decals and license plates will enable you to Show your MOAA colors.

They are guaranteed not to chip, crack or fade for three years.

Decals are \$5.00 each (2 for \$9)  
Plates are \$10 each (two for \$18)



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# Charleston Chapter MOAA February 2007 Luncheon Meeting



The Welcoming Committee



In Deep Thought



A Band of Brothers



Dick Giffen-Executive Director ITN  
Guest Speaker



Good to See Butch About



Listening Intently



Always There



Our Guest Speakers Are  
Always Warmly Welcomed

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**Annual Massing of the Colors  
 Summerall Chapel  
 The Citadel  
 4 March 2007**



**Stall High School Air Force JROTC Provided the Color Guard Presenting Charleston Chapter MOAA Flags**



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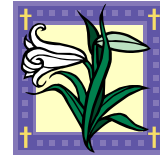
srowe@  
 prucar.com



President Bush announced the formation of a bipartisan commission to study America's VA health care system, chaired by former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala. I look forward to considering the recommendations this commission will send to Congress. You can be sure I am aware of the tremendous sacrifices the men and women of our Armed Forces have made for our freedoms, and the importance of providing excellent care for wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. I am monitoring this situation carefully and will continue to support legislation that provides the best possible care for all our veterans.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me. Please feel free to contact me again in the future with anything that is important to you or your family. It is an honor to serve you and the people of South Carolina.  
Sincerely,

Jim DeMint  
United States Senator



The Board of Directors  
Wish All Our Members A  
Joyous and Happy Easter



The Board of Directors  
Wish All Our Jewish Members A  
Happy Passover

**2007-2008 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN	553-9581	capthentryl@comcast.net
<b>DIR. SCHOLARSHIP</b>	COL Halbert R. Smart, USAF	824-1263	rudy@thesmartsplace.com

News and Views herein are not necessary those of any Government Department or of other Chapters or Members. **Prospective Chapter Members:** if you are not a member of the Charleston Chapter, MOAA, you have received this copy as a courtesy invitation to call any Officer or Director for information about joining.

**Lynn Brown**  
LYNN BROWN, USN, RET.  
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**MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES  
FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS**

Two additional members have joined the ranks of those who have paid their dues for five or more years. In addition to those previously recognized, we are pleased to extend our wholehearted thanks to the following members:

1Lt. Paul H. Dole, USMC (Ret.)

CDR Douglas W. Simmons, USN (Ret.)

**Toys for Tots**

Just a reminder, the chapter is accepting Donations for the Toys for Tots Drive.

Help us reach our Goal of \$700.00  
For the 2007 project.

Send in your donations, and we'll list them in the newsletter

What a way to remember someone's Birthday, Anniversary, or other memorial event.

We were very successful in 2006  
Lets beat the challenge in 2007

**April 2007**

1st Palm Sunday



3rd First Day of Passover



6th Good Friday



8th Easter Sunday



22nd Earth Day



25th Administrative Professional Day

Charleston Chapter MOAA *Membership Application Renewal Change of Address* (circle one). Chapter Dues: \$10.00 a year for Regular membership. Auxiliary membership \$5.00 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged in order to reduce paperwork. Make check payable to "Charleston MOAA". Mail to: Charleston MOAA, P.O. Box 70421, Charleston SC 29415-0421.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a member of National MOAA, please provide your membership number \_\_\_\_\_

Your status (circle one) Retired Active Duty Reserve National Guard Former Officer Auxiliary

Dues for Year (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Membership: 581  
Auxiliary Members: 116  
Honorary Members: 37

## MEMBERSHIP DUES 2007

To those members who have not yet paid their annual dues, please note that your Membership is highly valued and we sincerely hope to continue counting you among us as we press on to further the goals and objectives of this Chapter. To remain a Charter member, please submit your dues as soon as you can..

Please remember that the Chapter's annual dues are expected at the beginning of each year. Check the mailing label on this newsletter, where it says, "DUES PAID THRU....." date to see if your dues are current for the year 2007 or beyond.

If not, please mail your dues at your earliest convenience (\$10.00 for members or \$5.00 for Auxiliary members) payable to Charleston MOAA. Along with your dues please complete the Membership Application/Renewal form inside the back page of this Newsletter. Attach your check to the application and mail both to:

Charleston Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 70421  
Charleston, SC 29415-0421.

Thanks in advance



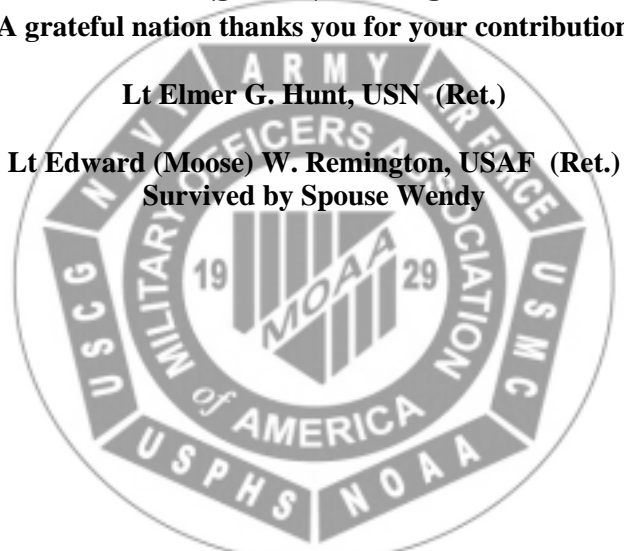
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## REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

Lt Elmer G. Hunt, USN (Ret.)

Lt Edward (Moose) W. Remington, USAF (Ret.)  
Survived by Spouse Wendy



A contribution will be made to the scholarship fund in memory of our lost member

## Dues Questions

Questions concerning your status should be directed to:

Al Smith, Membership VP. 572-2011  
alandmarty@comcast.net

## WELCOME ABOARD !!

Maj. Philip T. Jones, USMC (Ret)  
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