



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

December, 2010 Issue 11-2010

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Web site: www.chasmoaa.org

Chapter visits the VA Hospital

Members of the Charleston Chapter paid another visit to the VA Hospital the Saturday after Veterans Day, again accompanied by several members of the Fort Dorchester JROTC. The visitors were well received, and both the visitors and the patients enjoyed the activ-



Don Lovelace and Ritha Tuten visit with Vet Clinton Turner



AFJROTC Cadet Nathalie Watson from Fort Dorchester JROTC visits Vet Richard Carmer.



Don Lovelace shakes hands with veteran Mark Prince.

Who's this Month's MOAA Profile?
See Page Three

Christmas at Carrabba's

Mark your calendar for the chapter's Christmas luncheon to be held Friday, December 17th at Carrabba's Italian Grill, located on Rivers Avenue in the Northwoods Mall area. The lunch will be informal and in a holiday atmosphere. Please send your check and RSVP before the deadline. We expect a good turnout of current and auxiliary members to enjoy the opportunity to socialize with one another.

- Place: Carrabba's Italian Grill
- Date: Friday December 17, 2010
- Time: Social hour 11:00 AM
- Lunch: 12 Noon
- Menu: Chicken Marsala, Penne Pomadora, bread and butter, House Salad, Tiramisu, Coffee or Tea, Cash Bar
- Cost: \$22.00 per member
- Dress: Comfortable Casual
- RSVP: Check to arrive NO later than: Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mail to: LCDR William Mehard, 5926 Commonwealth Circle, Hanahan, SC 29410-2431

Need additional info: Call home tel: 554-8391
Mobile: 843-834-0974
Email: mehardw@bellsouth.net



Legislative Update

CDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

DEFICIT COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO PAY UP

The co-chairs of the President's Deficit Reduction and Reform startled legislators and the other 16 Commission members by a pre-emptive announcement of a massive package of proposed spending cuts and tax reforms they claim will be necessary to get the country back on the right fiscal track.

Their package envisions deep cuts in virtually every category of federal spending, as well as a dramatic simplification of the tax system that would eliminate many popular deductions for home owner interest, capital gains, and more.

Under Commission rules, 14 of the 18 commissioners have to agree on what ever recommendations are included in the commission report due in early December. The co-chairman jumped the gun on the commission's delivery date by announcing their own recommendation package, to the apparent consternation of some other commission members. Proposed initiatives affecting military and veteran communities would among many other things:

- * Change the CPI to depress COLA's for all federal annuity programs.
 - *Require Medicare beneficiaries to absorb a greater share of health costs.
 - *Impose TRICARE fee hikes and implement enrollment fees for all TRICARE programs.
- Reduce COLA,s for early military retirees (in previous proposals, this usually meant "before age 60").
- *Freeze military and federal civilian pay raises for three years (including housing/ subsistence allowances).

- *Consolidate commissaries and exchanges.
- *Eliminate CONUS dependent schools.
- *Raise the Social Security retirement age to 69 and early retirement age to 64.
- *Curtail future Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors (but stop the immediate 255 CUT) .
- *Require non-disabled vets to pay more to use VA facilities.
- *Require legislative requirements for mandatory across-the-board cuts if Congress doesn't act to keep federal spending growth below a specified level.

The co-chairs claim a starting point for what's expected to be a protracted and (both fiscally and politically) painful budget battle. While the co-chairmen admit that their package, as a whole, stands little chance of enactment, they agree that " America cannot be great if we go broke".

All citizens must be concerned about America's increasingly severe deficit problems, and addressing those problems will require sober sacrifices on the part of every American.

However, we must ensure that government leaders must acknowledge their unique obligation to those who rendered decades of service and sacrifices for the rest of the country, and that any allocation of "shared sacrifice" must recognize that this tiny segment of Americans already has been required to shoulder a vastly disproportionate share of national sacrifice.

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Verbia Quattlebaum, Auxiliary Member Active Chapter Participant



Charleston's MOAA has 95 auxiliary members but none are more enthusiastic than Verbia Quattlebaum.

"I'm active in my church," Verbia said recently. "I have friends, I stay busy here, I cook my own food and I read a book a week."

In other words, Verbia enjoys life to the fullest.

She's also an active participant in Charleston MOAA's events. She comes to us because both of her late husbands were former military officers.

"My parents died when I was six or seven years old," Verbia said. "I was raised by my sister and grew up in Dover, Ohio."

She attended Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., then returned to Ohio where she met John F. Brandt. They were married in 1947 and John, an Air Force reserve officer, was recalled to active duty in 1950.

John and Verbia first moved to Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts where John was a C-121 transport pilot. He eventually was stationed at Charleston Air Force Base but not before he and Verbia moved to Wheelus Air Base, Libya.

"John was busy flying, sometimes 30 days at a stretch," she said. But she and other wives had a wonderful time.

"We played golf all day and bridge all night," she said. "I also got a job at the Officers' Club. It was my favorite post. We had a good time there."

John and Verbia returned to the United States in 1953, just in time to help reopen Charleston Air Force Base. The base had closed in 1946.



Verbia holds a photo of her first husband, John.

We had a happy life here," Verbia said, up to the day John Brandt died.

"It was Jan. 1, 1961," she said. "We made the traditional house call to the commanding officer's home. Then I played bridge and he headed for the golf course. But he was ill when he came home."

John Brandt was 40 years old when he died of a heart attack at the Charleston Naval Hospital. "It was the worst day of my life," she said.

Later, Verbia went back to school and landed a job as a secretary and office manager at the Naval Supply Center. She worked there for 16 years during which time she met and married Paul Quattlebaum.

Paul had been an Army officer during World War II but was a civilian when he and Verbia met. He was a former president of the Chamber of Commerce and the owner and operator of an import-export firm.

Verbia and Paul were married on Nov. 4, 1976. She moved into Paul's home on East Bay Street in downtown Charleston. She became interested in gardening and even took Clemson University's gardening course.

She continued with her volunteer work and golf and bridge. And she and Paul traveled through much of the world until he, too, became ill. He died of cancer in 2003.

Verbia has three stepdaughters but no blood relatives.

"I know I'm the last of my generation, but I still keep busy," she said.





President's Pen

As we approach 2011, MOAA has announced a nationwide effort to greatly increase total MOAA membership and our chapter intends to aggressively support that initiative. In the coming months I ask each of you to help us to grow our chapter membership. Talk to eligible family members, neighbors and friends and urge them to consider joining a MOAA chapter. Our collective voices can be a major factor in bringing meaningful change to our nation.

To date, we have been unable to find someone to replace John Nolan as the chapter Legislative Affairs director. This position does not require prior training or experience and basically consists of consolidating information from MOAA weekly legislative updates and compiling a one page report for our monthly newsletter. We can make available to you all of the pertinent issues that are going on in the Legislative field. If someone out there is interested please contact any board member for help getting started.

Our next event will be the Christmas luncheon at Carrabba's Restaurant in North Charleston. In addition to a great lunch this is also the annual meeting where we select chapter officers for 2011. Installation of the new officers will be at the January meeting at the Charleston Club.

Those of you who have been selected by the nominating committee have the opportunity to start training at this time. Please do so.

The VA Hospital visits are great. The only thing missing is a good turnout of our members for this function. It would be good to see as many members as there are JROTC Cadets attending.

Cliff



Our president shares some information with COL Meeker, 628th Commander at the Retiree Activity Day in November at the Charleston Club.

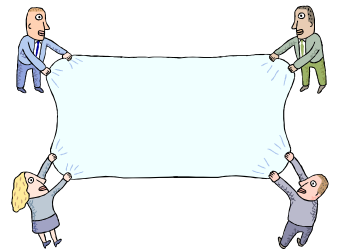
THE END IS NEAR



The end of the year is almost here and now is your chance to make a tax deductible contribution to our Future Military Officer Scholarship program.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP

Make your check out to *Future Military Officer Scholarship Fund* and send it to the address below. You will be helping one of our own local students go to college.



Mail your contribution to:

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

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP.

REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution



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

October Luncheon



President Cliff Abbey presents a mug to Channel 2's Rob Fowler, and names Rob as an honorary Member of the Chapter for his work with Toys for Tots, and for his efforts to let the Public Know what the Chapter is doing for Toys for Tots.



Linda Brock, Jane Willard, Berneice Fuller and Gail Nolan enjoy themselves at the Shrine Club Luncheon.

Need to get in touch with the chapter?

Call one of the Board members listed on page 6 or mail us at

Chapter Mailing Address

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Chapter member challenges other members to become “Life Members”

We recently received a dues renewal from COL William Price, who issued a challenge to the other members of the Chapter. Below is what he wrote to us.

“I have been a “Life” member of the National MOAA for more than 40 years.”

“The enclosed \$100.00 check will cover my annual dues through 2020, at which time I will be 102 years old.”

“This will possibly be a “Life” membership in the Charleston Chapter of MOAA.”

“I want to challenge the other 457 members to become “Possibly Life Members”.”

William C. Price

Thank you, COL Price, for being a steady member, and for issuing such a challenge to our other members.

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CHAPLAIN	CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN	553-9581	capthensyl@comcast.net
SCHOLARSHIP	COL Rudy 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.

Sam Stafford III, M.D.
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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 _____

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Membership: 458

Auxiliary Members: 98

Honorary Members: 25

Receiving E-Mail Newsletters: 94

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2011

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 by **1 January 2011**.

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 2011 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.

Dues Questions

Questions concerning your status should be directed to:

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

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS

Four additional member has 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:

BG James E. Mace, USA (Ret.)

CAPT Jack E. Martin, USN (Ret.)

COL William C. Price, USA (Ret.)

COL Donald E. Whistler, USA (Ret.)

Note: COL Price has issued a challenge to our members to become "possibly life members" in the Charleston MOAA. He has paid his dues up until his 102nd birthday. See his letter in this issue.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Maj Gen Clare T. Ireland Jr., USAF (Ret)
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Charleston, SC 29412-3506

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Charleston, SC 296406-9058

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