

# Bridge View



## Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

October, 2010



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

### Chapter Members Visit VA Hospital accompanied by Fort Dorchester JROTC

In August, the chapter teamed up with members of the Fort Dorchester JROTC to conduct a joint visit to the VA Hospital. The cadets were well received by the veterans, and the cadets enjoyed the opportunity to chat with them.



MOAA members (from left) Larry Dandridge, Terry Joyce, Rudy Smart, Cliff Abbey, Bill Mehard, Leslie Brady (Bill's daughter) and Bob Ticknor (rear) join with eight cadets from the Fort Dorchester High School Junior ROTC in a visit to veterans at the VA hospital in Charleston on Aug. 28, 2010.



Fort Dorchester High School ROTC cadets Cameron Moore (left) and Steven Hunneberry enjoy a few moments with Army vet Karl Karstew during a visit to the VA hospital in Charleston.

### Charleston Chapter MOAA October Luncheon

We will lunch with a local TV personality, Rob Fowler, Storm Team 2's Chief Meteorologist since 1987. Rob has worked at TV stations in Georgia and Wisconsin. He is a member of the National Weather Association and the American Meteorology Society. Married with three children, Rob is active in the community, volunteering for many organizations. He visits with thousands of schoolchildren every year and hosts school tours of News 2's state of the art broadcast facility.

#### October Luncheon

Make your reservations early and plan to attend our October luncheon at the POINT GRILL, 176 Patriots Point Road, Mt. Pleasant. Located in the Omar Shrine building.

Date: Friday, October 22, 2010

Time: Social Hour 11 AM

Lunch: 12 Noon

Menu: Point Grill Friday Buffet includes a Seafood entrée, a Beef entrée, Salad and Dessert

Cost: \$17.00 per person

RSVP: Check to arrive No later than 19 October 2010

This is a casual dress affair. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA and mail to William Mehard, 5926 Commonwealth Circle, Hanahan, SC 29410-2431. If you have special diet needs contact LCDR Mehard. Tel: 554-8391 or Mobile 834-0974. Email: [mehardw@bellsouth.net](mailto:mehardw@bellsouth.net)



Rob, Fowler, our guest speaker

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE CDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

### VA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY COMPENSATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation met in late August and announced the release of its report to Congress.

The Advisory Committee is charged with advising Secretary Shinseki on the maintenance and periodic readjustment of the VA schedule of Rating Disabilities 9 (VASRD).

The Committee's focus is in three areas of disability compensation:

1. Requirements and methodology for updating the VASRD.
2. Adequacy and sequencing of compensation procedures for transitioning service members.
3. Disability compensation for non-economic loss (referred to as "quality of life").

The Committee recommended last year the need for a systematic VASRD review and reiterated that recommendation in its most recent report. The VASRD, which has not been significantly updated since its development in 1945, has been labeled as "out-of-date" and in need of major and immediate revisions by several past commissions and veterans' organizations.

Since the interim report, Secretary Shinseki has endorsed a comprehensive review and subsequently developed a four phased project management plan to revise and update all 15 body systems in the VASRD.

During the two-day meeting, the Committee heard from several panel members on various body system review groups.

Although the review of some VASRD components may be complete and published by next year, the work is not scheduled to be completed until December 2016.

MOAA will continue to monitor progress on the revision of the disability rating system.

### "GRAY AREA" TRICARE

Guardsmen and reservists who are not yet age 60 can now purchase TRICARE coverage for themselves and their families. Eligibles may enroll in the new TRICARE RETIRED RESERVE (TRR) program now and health coverage will start in October.

The program is open to all "gray area" retirees who are not also eligible for the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program, as well as spouses, dependent children and survivors.

Unlike the TRICARE Reserve Select programs for drilling reservists-in which premiums are subsidized by 72%, the TRR premiums will be unsubsidized. For 2010 the members-only premium is \$388 a month and family coverage is \$976 a month. The rates increase to \$408 and \$1020 respectively on January 1, 2011.

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## LTC (Ret) Larry Dandridge Army Aviator and Veteran Advocate



If you're looking for someone who has devoted his life to service, you need look no farther than retired Army Lt. Col. Larry Dandridge.

"I'm especially concerned about wounded, ill, injured and needy veterans and their families," Dandridge recently said from his West Ashley home. So much so that he's a member of the Ralph H. Johnson Patient/Family Centered Care Steering Committee at the Charleston VA hospital.

Dandridge also holds down two jobs: one as regional manager and senior engineer for a defense contractor, the other as chief executive officer of the St. Louis, MO-based Hospice. But it's his love of veterans that shows through. He was one of the VA Medical Centers Volunteers of the Year (2009) and has helped dozens of veterans find good jobs. He has also raised over \$75,000 since 2005 to help wounded, ill and needy veterans.

"The (VA) Medical Center is a great asset to our community," he said. "However, they (like all government operations) are in need of help."

For example, Dandridge recently helped the VA hospital find private offices that their social workers can use to counsel vets. But it's the lack of parking at the VA hospital that he finds most troublesome now.

Vets who suffer from post traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, also run into what Dandridge calls Parking Traumatic Stress Disorder. It's linked to the severe shortage of parking at the VA Medical Center.

"I see (veterans) crying before they get in the door because they're late due to a lack of parking", he said. I could harp on this forever."

Dandridge hopes he and others can convince the VA and other agencies to acquire land beneath the U.S. Highway 17 bridges over the Ashley River to handle overflow parking.

Dandridge is a native Charlestonian whose record of accomplishments reads like a railroad timetable.

He graduated from the former Murray Vocational High School in 1964, attended The Citadel and Charleston Southern for a year each, then joined the Army in 1967 as an infantry private.

Soon, he moved up to aviation warrant officer, flying UH-1s in Vietnam. He spent a year flying troops, supplies and gunships until he was shot down and badly injured. He also received a battlefield commission to first lieutenant during his tour.

Dandridge earned a bachelor's degree upon his return to the States, then in 1974 headed for Iran as part of the Military Assistance Group.

"I went through 11 auto accidents including 10 with Iranian drivers. I also spent an hour as a hostage and saw more dead people in Iran than I ever saw in Vietnam," he said.

Other assignments include:

- \* aviation company commander with the 101st Airborne Division
- \* two tours in Germany introducing Army pilots to the Cobra gunship
- \* graduate school at Florida Institute of Technology
- \* chief of aircraft maintenance at Fort Rucker, Ala.

He retired from the Army in 1991 while at Rucker.

Dandridge and his wife, Judi, moved to St. Louis where he attended that city's police academy. At age 51 he was the oldest student but ranked third in physical fitness.

He spent one year full-time and several years part-time on the police force before he and Judi moved to Charleston. He soon found vets who needed help.

"If anyone is willing to help me acquire land under the two Ashley River bridges for VA parking, please let me know," he said.

Knowing Larry, he'll find a way.



LTC Larry Dandridge

## Nominations are now being accepted for the Robert J. Lahm Award

The Robert J. Lahm Award was established to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Lahm, who served as Chapter Secretary from January 1997 to April 2003. Lt Col Lahm made many significant contributions to both the community and to this Chapter. The Award recognizes the efforts of an individual in providing outstanding service to the Charleston community and Charleston Chapter MOAA

**Nominations:** Any chapter member (including Honorary) making a significant contribution to this Chapter and/or the Charleston Trident Community is eligible. Any chapter member may nominate a member of the Charleston MOAA Chapter for this award. Eligibility will be considered for non-MOAA members, on a case-by-case basis, who have clearly demonstrated outstanding service regarding the purpose of this chapter.

**Submission:** Nominations are to be submitted to the Chapter President not later than 31 October 2010. Mail it to LT Cliff Abbey, 100 Cheshire Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445-7128

Recipient's name will be added to a permanent trophy.

Award will be presented at the November member function at Red's Ice House.

Restrictions:

- (a) Sitting Chapter President is not eligible.
- (b) Normal duties of office performed by Board members are not deemed significant contributions and thus are not eligible for this award

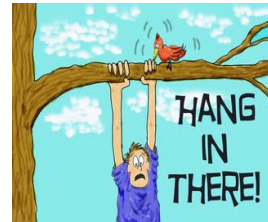
## REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution



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

## MORE RESCUERS SHOW UP & HELP



More Chapter members pitch in to help our scholarship fund. Their tax deductible contributions are helping build our account up to a level where we can easily support one student.



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP.** Make your check out to Future Military Officers Scholarship Fund and send it to us. You will be helping one of our own local students go to college.

### MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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

**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP.**



**Sam Stafford III, M.D.**  
**Mt. Pleasant Dermatology**  
1280 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.  
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(843) 881-0320

## HOW ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF YOUR CHAPTER'S BOARD?

If you would take a look at the list of Officers and Board of Directors on page 6, you will notice that there several whose term expires this year. Have you ever given any thought to serving in one of the positions that will become available?

Many of you could be really helpful to the chapter if you would raise your hand and volunteer to serve as a member of the board. Most of you have had experience serving as board members, advisors, etc., during your years of military and civilian retired service. Providing your expertise and assistance to your chapter would be a both a benefit to members as well as our community and country.

Just think about it, and volunteer your services to your chapter. Contact Cliff Abbey at 553-2644, or Butch Fuller at 821-0169, and we will put your name on the ballot.

Is there work to it? Sure there is.

Can you do the job? I am betting that you can.

## A Note from Bob Hanlin

Bob was reading our article regarding places to get stickers that will give you access to base facilities, and he advised me of the following:

Regarding the notice in the Bridge View concerning base stickers, the Coast Guard base on Tradd Street in Charleston issues Department of Homeland Security stickers which are honored at DoD facilities. The Coast Guard base may be more convenient for those who live on or near the Charleston peninsula, and their BX has some pretty good Class VI prices.

Bob Hanlin

Thanks, Bob.

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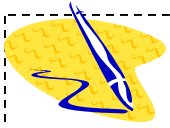
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## President's Pen

Your Board of Directors is seeking nominations for this year's Lahm Award. Specifics can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. The Lahm Award criteria permits, on a case by case basis, non-chapter members who have demonstrated outstanding service in supporting the purpose of our chapter to be nominated. To this point no non-member has been nominated but I ask everyone to consider worthy non-chapter members in addition to our chapter members as we search for potential candidates.

Another important item of business is establishing a slate of officers to serve on the 2011 Board of Directors. The two key board positions which must be filled are Personal Affairs Officer and Legislative Affairs Officer. At the September chapter board meeting BG Ernie Brockman and his wife Col Beverly Brockman will be installed as members of the Board of Directors. The board's nominating committee will identify potential candidates for elected officers and board members for 2011. Elected positions are for two year terms and board members serve three year terms.

First Vice President Bill Mehard is finalizing events for October, November and December. Presentation of the Lahm Award, if there is a nominee, will be at the November meeting at Red's Ice House. The December meeting is our annual meeting at which the nominating committee will present the proposed slate of officers for the next two years. Specifics for each of these events will be included in our newsletters.

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<b>PRESIDENT</b>	LT Clifton R. Abbey, USN (thru 2010)	553-2644	cliffabbey@att.net
<b>1st VP PROGRAMS</b>	LCDR William J. Mehard, Jr. USN (thru 2010)	554-8391	mehardw@bellsouth.net
<b>2nd VP MEMBERSHIP</b>	COL Allan T. Smith, USAF (thru 2010)	572-2011	alandmarty@comcast.net
<b>SECRETARY</b>	COL Clinton L. Noren, USAF (thru 2010)	552-7579	cnoren@earthlink.net
<b>TREASURER</b>	LTCOL. Ed Knowles, USAF (thru 2010)	553-5299	r66837.comcast.net
<b>DIR. HOSPITALITY</b>	MRS. Virginia P. Chinnnes, AUX (thru 2013)	572-8761	
<b>DIR AWARDS</b>	COL Steve A. Rowe, USA (thru 2010)	303-7438	srowe@carolinaone.com
<b>DIR PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>	CAPT Roy Corderman, USN (thru 2013)	571-5061	
<b>DIR. LEGISLATIVE</b>	CDR John E. Nolan, USN (thru 2010)	821-5767	sandlappers@sc.rr.com.
<b>DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY</b>	MAJOR Terry Joyce, USAF (thru 2010)	871-6360	wjoyce@prodigy.net
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller, USA (thru 2010)	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
<b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b>	CDR Donald Lovelace, USN (thru 2013)	797-6326	Love29406@aol.com
<b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b>	BG Ernest D. Brockman USA (thru 2013)	875-4465	ebrockman@sc.rr.com
<b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b>	COL Beverly R. Brockman USA (thru 2013)	875-4465	bbrockman@sc.rr.com

### REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)

<b>EDITOR</b>	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN	553-9581	capthentryl@comcast.net
<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>	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.

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Contact Terry Joyce at 871-6360, and he will give you all of the details.

**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: 447  
Auxiliary Members: 95  
Honorary Members: 24  
Receiving E-Mail Newsletters: 85

### Dues Questions

Questions concerning your status should be directed to:

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

### BE THE NEXT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!!

Did you know that this newsletter is on line *and* in living color? Check out our website at [www.chasmoaa.org/](http://www.chasmoaa.org/). You will need the latest version of Adobe Reader which is available on our site, and it's free. If you choose to access the newsletter from the web on a regular monthly basis instead of the U.S. Post Office "snail mail", you will:

- Be notified as soon as the newsletter is on the web.
- Receive your copy 5 to 7 days earlier.
- Help the environment by reducing paper waste and diminishing the number of trees needed to make paper.
- Help your Chapter to reduce the price tag involved in the cost of postage (postage rates up again (Jan 2011) and printing!

I hope this sounds like something you would like to do to help your chapter. If so, let Al Smith know at [alandmarty@comcast.net](mailto:alandmarty@comcast.net).

If you select this option you will receive a personal e-mail in October and December of each year showing you your annual dues expiration date.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

**Mrs. Ruth Bracey**  
259 Culbertson Drive  
Lodi, CA 95240

## WELCOME ABOARD

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1724 Wayah Drive  
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344 Summerset Lane  
Summerville, SC 29486-8338

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