



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

December, 2011 Issue 11-2011

Published monthly, except July

Web site: www.charlestonmoaa.com

Attention, Readers!!

Toys for Tots. On December 14th, members of the Chapter will be presenting various sports balls to Channel 2 and the USMC Reserve at Channel 2 Studios. This year, the Chapter raised over \$950 in contributions from you, our membership, for this very worthwhile charity. Be sure to tune in to Channel 2's news reports at 5:00, 6:00 and 11:00 PM on the 14th to see your members in action.

Our Web site address has changed. You can find us now at www.charlestonmoaa.com. Be sure to check it out, especially the article regarding copying of your military ID card.

Correction. In our October Newsletter, we incorrectly reported the death of CAPT Robert F. Bennett. CAPT Bennett was a member of the USCG, not the USN. The editor sincerely regrets the error.

Winners again! Your Charleston Chapter has won the Award of Excellence for the ninth time. We won the 4 Star Award, which we have been awarded four times. We have won the 5 Star Award five times.

Photos from the October Luncheon



Ricky Ard and president Ernie Brockman share a moment at the Oct 28th luncheon. Ricky was invited to tell members of the benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.



New member Gus Isaac and Board Member Beverly Brockman enjoyed the Chapter's Oct 28th Luncheon.

December at Carrabba's

Mark your calendar for December 16th and take a break from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations! Carrabba's Italian Grill, located on Rivers Avenue in Northwoods Mall, has been gracious enough to open their restaurant for us that day so we can relax and enjoy each other's company without the competing crowd of other customers. The lunch will be informal and the holiday atmosphere will be much in evidence! And, after a satisfying lunch and the camaraderie of good friends and acquaintances, we can complete our holiday shopping right next door at Northwoods Mall!

Place: Carrabba's Italian Grill, 2150 Northwoods Blvd., North Charleston, phone 824-0404.

Date: Friday, December 16th, 2011.

Time: 11:00 A.M. Social Hour (Cash Bar).

Lunch: 12:00 Noon.

Menu: Chicken Bryan, Sirloin Marsala or Lobster Ravioli, Caesar salad or soup of the day, fresh bread with herb mix and olive oil, a non alcoholic beverage and a mini-dessert.

Cost: \$23.00 per person. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA

Dress: Comfortable Casual

RSVP: Check to arrive NLT Tuesday, December 13th.

Mail to: Dave Farley, CDR, USN (ret) 126 Cainhoy Landing Road, Wando, SC 29492

For additional information: Call 881-9542 (home); 708-8110 (cell); or e-mail defarley@bellsouth.net



Legislative Update CDR Gordon B. Hobgood, USN Ret

View from the Crows Nest:

Newsletter articles are written two to three weeks before publication and can therefore be over taken by events.

Rough seas ahead!

Just two weeks until the Super Committee is due to release their \$1.2T budget reduction proposal and there are few press releases or media sound bites to indicate how negotiations are or are not going. Most creditable sources seem to be leaning toward failure. Yet there are indicators Republicans are offering some areas of compromise for raising taxes (stealth tax increases via elimination of deductions and loop holes) and Democrats offering to slow spending (in out years) and entitlement decreases (Medicare/Medicaid/Social Security/Military Retirement). In addition, some Democrats have been floating the possibility of authorizing a dead line extension should the committee request one.

At any rate, by the time you read this column the Super Committee will have reported their findings and or debt reduction proposals to Congress. My radar isn't powerful enough to see through the fog of politics and give us what the committee will propose. However, the committee has managed to keep a lid on negotiations and back room compromises/secret handshakes. Don't seem too surprised if they try to pull a rabbit (or turkey) out of a hat in the last seconds of the game.

Which way is the wind blowing?

Foul!!! The brouhaha over government spending seems to have taken a back seat to 2012 election campaigning. Congress continues to pass benign or do good/feel good legislation that will have little or no effect on long range politics or issues ... other than to gain incumbent reelection.

Sen. McCain (R-AZ) has stepped up his push to block working age retirees from using TRICARE Prime. McCain suggested to the powerful 12-member Joint Select Committee on Debt Reduction it would help avoid spending cuts that would directly impact readiness.

Sen. DeMint (R-SC) continues pushing the Tea Party hard line of cutting all avenues of government spending and reducing taxes.

Sen. Graham (R-SC) and Rep. Scott (R-SC) continue to maintain a low profile on debt negotiations and budget matters.

Beat To Quarters ... This Is Not A Drill:

Over the past two weeks, MOAA national has solicited members to contact their Washington representatives on a host of issues important to active duty and retired military members and their families. Below are a few of the more urgent issues. You can send a proposed email and/letter by going to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home>.

Oppose CBO's Dramatic TRICARE Cuts

Sen. John McCain has urged the powerful Super Committee to consider recommendations by the Congressional Budget Office that would bar retirees from using TRICARE Prime, raise TRICARE Standard fees by \$3,500 a year, and more. McCain's support has raised the profile of these outrageous proposals and raised the risk they will be offered by the Super Committee for congressional approval this year.

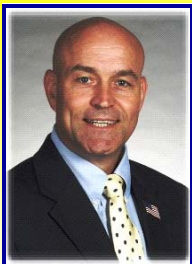
2nd Class Status of Military Medicine

In the worst-case scenario of a budget sequester that imposes \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts, the sequester law exempts all VA healthcare and other programs from any cuts.

Prevent Medicare/Tricare Cut

Act now to prevent the projected 27% cut in Medicare and military TRICARE payments to doctors that will occur Jan. 1, 2012 unless Congress changes current law.

(Continued on page 6)



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COL Pete Edmonds, USA

Dentist, Oral Surgeon, Caddy



Some folks, like retired Col. Peter Edmonds, come out of college not sure exactly what it is they want to do in life.

Fortunately for Peter, the U.S. Army had a good idea about his future.

“I grew up in Boston and graduated in 1960 from Boston College,” Edmonds said recently. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Service Corps on the day he graduated and placed on active duty for six months.

Peter worked as an adjutant at the Army hospital at Fort Devens, Mass. He left active duty to marry his wife, Kathleen, and enroll in the Georgetown School of Dentistry. He remained in the Army Reserve. When he graduated from dental school he became what he calls “a prime target for reactivation” back into the active-duty Army.

He soon became a full-fledged Army dentist and was promoted to captain while serving at Fort Ord, Calif.

He and Kathleen next spent three years in Germany, returning home to Fort Knox, Ky. in 1969. Once there, he worked on a special project to develop mobile dental clinics to help U. S. troops in Vietnam complete their tours.

“The project was designed so troops in Vietnam could postpone restoration on their teeth for up to a year,” when they would be back in the States, Edmonds said.

Peter and Kathleen spent three years at Beaumont Medical Center in El Paso, Texas. He became an oral surgeon during this period, then moved on to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

“It was my best job,” Pete said.



2LT Pete Edmonds in 1960, when he was commissioned in the Army after his graduation from Boston College ROTC

“A fun time, working with staff and the cadets,” he added.

One of his duties was to convince West Point’s hockey players to wear face guards. “It was hard to convince some of the older players to use them,” he added.

“I resigned from the Army in 1978 to go into private practice in the Boston area,” Peter said.

“I wanted to get back into teaching and research,” he said. In 1984, “I found a vacancy (in Charleston) at the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs) and MUSC (the Medical University of South Carolina.) I applied and was accepted.”

Peter was chief of Dental Services and Oral Surgery at the VA. Much of his work involved research with diabetic patients.

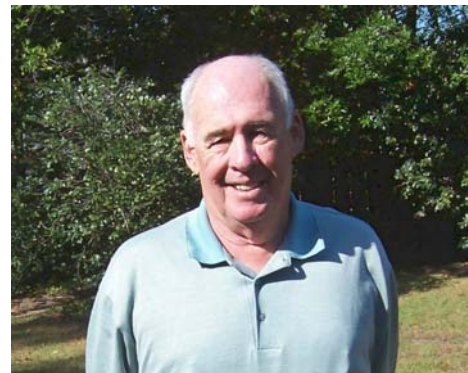
Looking back, Peter said his most challenging assignment was the research project at Fort Knox where he worked to develop mobile units that would withstand the elements in Vietnam.

The climate was the biggest problem there, he said.

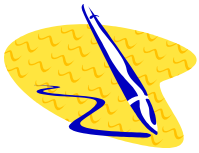
Even though Peter is completely retired, he still keeps his hand in as a volunteer and an occasional mission trip, helping people who otherwise might never see a dentist.

And his best job ever? Caddying on a golf course near Boston.

As a youngster, “I caddied at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, N.H. I love golf,” he said.



Pete Edmonds today



President's Pen

Veterans' Day has passed and there were all kinds of opportunities for celebrating those who put their lives on the line so that the rest of Americans can live free – parades, free meals, news articles – you name it and it was there. However, one of South Carolina's representatives had scheduled a special opportunity for our World War II veterans to be honored on the Yorktown at Patriot's Point. Letters were sent to veteran's organizations to publicize the event to ensure a good turnout. Then, at the last minute, something came up!! The event has been delayed until sometime in 2012!! With the increasing loss of the Greatest Generation's heroes, how many of them will not be around in 2012 to receive their recognition?? What could be more important than honoring them with that event??

With Pearl Harbor Day approaching, just how much attention will be paid to that event? We have had our own Day of Infamy on September 11, 2001; however, we should not forget our country's history. If we do not remember how that Greatest Generation put their lives on the line to ensure America remained free, how are we going to ensure future generations have those same freedoms we enjoy today?

I am gravely concerned that some of our leaders are oblivious to what our founding fathers envisioned for our great nation. Our country was built on our citizens having the ability to work for a living, live within their means and ensuring their family's were provided a comfortable living. Our fathers and mothers worked to ensure we enjoyed a life that was better and more comfortable than theirs had been. Somehow, that has been turned topsy-turvy.

The great civilizations have collapsed from within – not from outside threats!! When enough people realize they can elect leaders who will give them everything without them having to work, our nation is on the fast track to collapse. When our government spends money we do not have, our nation is on the fast track to collapse. When our nation's leaders will not listen to our warnings, our nation is on the fast track to collapse! Get involved!! Write your representatives!! Let them hear how you feel!! Include state and local reps when you provide your feelings.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!! God Bless our Veterans, God Bless America!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Ernie

Joint Base Charleston Undergoes ORI

Air Mobility Command inspector general inspectors will arrive at Joint Base (JB) Charleston for their Operational Readiness Inspection Nov. 29 through Dec. 6. For those unfamiliar with an Air Force ORI, it is an all-encompassing look at our ability to receive a (notional) deployment tasking, generate personnel and equipment and deploy and redeploy \$1.2 billion of C-17 aircraft, crews, equipment and nearly 700 personnel to a forward operating base. This inspection, which occurs every three years, is their "report card" on their ability to deploy forces and operate in a threat environment. It is the first ORI for JB Charleston.

JB Charleston personnel will be required to react to ORI scenarios with a sense of urgency as, if your safety was truly threatened. Follow their instructions and don't argue with them.

So, what can you do? Items such as seatbelt! and hands-free cell phone use on base will be observed. In fact, any safety practice violation observed by IG inspectors will be written up during the inspection. Therefore, all personnel driving on JB Charleston, going to the Clinic/Pharmacy, or any other facility on JB Charleston could fall under scrutiny by inspectors. Do the right thing, obey the rules and help JB Charleston pass their test.

Source:: *Joint Base Charleston The Patriot*

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming chapter events:

Friday, Dec 9th - Chapter Board Meeting, 12:15

Wednesday, Dec 14th — Toys For Tots Presentation at Channel 2 (see news times, 12:00, 5:00 6:00 and 11:00)

Friday, Dec 16th - Dec Luncheon, Carraba's

Friday, Jan 13th - Chapter Board Meeting, 12:15

THE END IS NEAR



The end of the year is almost here and now is your chance to make a fully tax deductible contribution to our Future Military Officer Scholarship program. Your gift to our Future Military Officer Scholarship fund can provide you immediate tax benefits because your donation is fully tax deductible.

Please say yes, I want to help educate the sons and daughters of the greater Charleston community. Make that check out to Future Military Officer Scholarship Fund and mail it to:
 Charleston MOAA
 P.O. Box 70421
 Charleston, SC 29415-0421

*We make a living by what we get,
 but we make a life by what we give." --Winston Churchill*

**PLEASE CONTINUE YOURS.
 THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP.**

Retiree Appreciation Day at CAFB




MOAA's Al Smith shares a smile with Air Force Captain Debra Heath during Retiree Appreciation Day at Joint Base Charleston on November 5th. Heath is one of Seven new members who joined the Chapter that Day.

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Personal Affairs

For our Chapter Naval Retirees, you may have received your last *Shift Colors* publications this past month. You also received the last issue in the spring of 2008. Due to budget restraints, the publication will only be available "online".

For those persons without an internet access you will have to go to a library or other locations to see what is happening in the Navy retiree area. So from now on you will have to access retiree information from: www.shiftcolors.navy.mil.

This last issue of *Shift Colors* contains a wealth of information such as obtaining ID cards to checklists for survivors and other need-to-know info. Most of this information applies to the other military services.

William Mehard, Chapter Director of Personal Affairs

Photos from the Nov 12th visit to the VA Hospital



Art Rooney shares a light moment with Army Veteran Jimmy Coker during MOAA Charleston's visit to the VA Hospital on November 12th.



Terry Joyce shakes hands with Army Veteran Don Washington during the Chapter's visit to the VA Hospital.

Legislative Update (cont'd from page 2)

Reject Attack on Commissaries

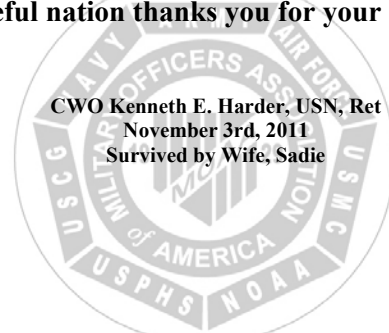
The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has approved a modified version of S. 277, which would eliminate funding for military commissaries to pay for VA health care for veterans who drank contaminated water while stationed at Camp Lejeune NC during years before 1988. MOAA supports care for the Camp Lejeune victims, but not by ending funding for military commissaries.

The latest MOAA magazine has coupons to give two military officers a one year national MOAA membership. Please take the time to complete and mail them in. The price is right and we will gain one more voice for current military issues and retirement/medical issues. If you can't use your coupons, please hand one to an officer and strongly encourage or even help them fill out the form and then mail it for them.

REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

CWO Kenneth E. Harder, USN, Ret
November 3rd, 2011
Survived by Wife, Sadie



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

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| SCHOLARSHIP | COL Rudy Smart, USAF | 824-1263 | 2smart1@gmail.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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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: 463

Auxiliary Members: 94

Honorary Members: 27

Receiving E-Mail Newsletters: 105

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2012

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 Chapter member, please submit your dues by **1 January 2012**.

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 2012 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, or to alandmarty@comcast.net

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS

Six 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:

CW4 George E. Barton, USA (Ret.)

CDR Joseph F. Le Blank, USN (Ret.)

Mrs. Gloria Hedden, AUX

LCDR John W. McCartney, USN (Ret.)

CDR Douglas W. Simmons, USN (Ret.)

CDR Norman D. Wolff, USN (Ret.)

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