



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

February, 2011 Issue 2-2011

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Web site: www.chasmoaa.org

VA Hospital Visit Scheduled for February 12th, 2011

Please be sure to mark your calendars, and plan on joining us for our next visit to the VA Hospital on Saturday, February 12th, 2011.

These visits are well received by the patients. They enjoy having someone to stop by and talk, and have the opportunity to relate some of their military experiences to others.

Members and spouses enjoy these visits, and many bring along toiletries, candy, and books that can be enjoyed by the patients.

Members of the Fort Dorchester Junior ROTC accompanied us on the last two visits, and the patients and cadets enjoyed the opportunity. They plan to be there again this time.

So, why not plan on being there. We normally gather at the Charleston Club at 0915 hours, and convoy down under the leadership of Terry Joyce. Others meet us at the hospital. Call Terry at 871-6360, and let him know that you will be joining us. Bring your spouse along. I know that you will enjoy the visit.



Beverly Brockman shares a moment with Navy Veteran Marty Martin during our visit in May 2010.

February Luncheon

Join us 18 February at Zeus's Grill & Seafood in Mt. Pleasant for a delicious Greek buffet and an informative presentation by Mr. Dennis Christensen. Mr. Christensen is an attorney whose Mt. Pleasant practice specializes in Elder Law. Dennis hosts a weekly Saturday morning program on WTMA radio. Anyone who has heard Dennis on the radio will recognize the extensive range of topics encompassed by his practice, a great many of which can be expected to touch each of us as we approach and/or move into our retirement years. So make your reservations early and plan to attend! It will be a great opportunity to ask the question(s) we all wonder about but never quite get around to asking.....

Place: Zeus Grill and Seafood, 725 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Mt. Pleasant (next to Outback Steakhouse & across from 84 Lumber).

Date: Friday, February 18th, 2011.

Time: Social Hour 11AM accompanied by a cash bar.

Lunch: 12 Noon.

Menu: Chicken/Gyro Buffet: Slow Roasted Chicken, Gyro, Tossed or Greek Salad, Pita Bread, Chopped Vegetables, Tzatziki Sauce, Oven Roasted Potatoes, coffee and tea.

Cost: \$15.00 per person. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA.

Dress: Casual.

RSVP: Check to arrive NLT Tuesday, February 15th, 2011.

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

For additional information call 881-9452 (home) or 708-8110 (cell) or E-mail: defarley@bellsouth.net

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

Legislative Update

CDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

MOAA SELECTED LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR 2011

ACTIVE/ RESERVE FORCE/FAMILY ISSUES:

- *Match active duty, Guard and Reserves forces sizes to mission requirements.
- *Sustain full military pay comparability with private sector.
- *Credit all post-9/11 active duty service toward Guard/Reserve early retirement.
- *Restore tax deduction for reservists' out of pocket expenses for military travel of 50 miles or more.
- *Protect funding for commissary, dependent schools and other family support items.
- *Improve access to affordable child care.
- *Establish flexible spending account coverage for out of pocket health/dependent care expenses.
- *Provide incentives for employers/government contractors to hire military spouses.
- *Expand career advancement account program (MyCAA) to career spouses and degree programs.
- *Raise relocation payments to cover members' costs for government directed moves.
- *Require better education on serious financial disadvantages of the REDUX retirement option.
- *Create new incentives for employers to hire and retrain drilling Guard/Reserves members.

HEALTH CARE ISSUES:

- *Avert 30+% Medicare/TRICARE payment cut and fix statutory formula to improve access to care.
- *Protect against disproportional increases in TRICARE Fees.
- *Improve and standardize DoD and VA benefits coverage for caregivers of ill and injured.
- *Upgrade TRICARE to attract more providers and improve beneficiaries access.

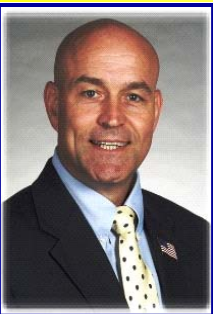
- *Allow three years active duty level TRICARE coverage for disability retirees/families.
- *Improve seamless transition between Defense and VA health care/benefits systems.
- *Authorize option to subsidize retention of reservists' civilian family health insurance.
- *Increase orthodontia payment cap under active duty dental plan.

RETIREMENT/SURVIVOR ISSUES:

- *Preserve full inflation cost of living adjustments (COLAs).
- *End deduction of VA disability compensation from military retired pay.
- *End deduction of VA survivors benefits (DIC) from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities.
- *Oppose military benefits changes that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices.
- *Implement a more equitable disability retirement system.
- *Restore VA survivors' annuities for qualifying widows who remarry after age 55.
- *Expand permanent ID card eligibility for elderly/disabled beneficiaries.
- *Authorize survivors to retain deceased retiree's full final month retired pay.
- *Authorize SBP annuities to be paid to Special Needs Trusts for permanently disabled annuitants.
- *Reform the Unified Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA).

VETERANS AND OTHER ISSUES:

- *Improve quality, efficiency and timeliness of VA claims processing system.
- *Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and long term care premiums.
- *Reduce Social Security penalties for certain civil service and state retirees/survivors.
- *Prevent disproportional Social Security/Medicare penalties for any population segment.
- *Win congressional approval of Flag anti-desecration amendment.



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Lieutenant Colonel Wilson R. Pierpont Our Chapter's Oldest Member



For years, Army Lt Col Wilson R. Pierpont knew he would wind up in Charleston even though he wasn't from the Lowcountry and was never stationed here.

"My wife (Suzanne) was a Charleston girl, a Pri-oleau," Wilson said recently. "That was good enough for me. I knew we were coming back one day."

What Wilson didn't know was just how long his journey might take. At age 97, he is Charleston MOAA's oldest surviving member. He retired from the Army in 1962, more than 48 years ago.

Wilson insists there was little excitement in his Army career. He was born in Dover, N.H., and grew up in Massachusetts. His father worked in a paper factory while his mother worked in a mill.

Wilson graduated from high school in 1932 and considered becoming an Episcopal priest. He eventually enrolled in Lehigh University under a scholarship that was aiming him for the priesthood. But while at Lehigh he enrolled in ROTC. He graduated in 1939 with a commission in the Army Reserve. He was having doubts about becoming a priest.

Wilson also had a fiancé - Suzanne - when the U.S. was thrust into war.

"I resigned from the seminary," he said. "Suzanne and I were married on Feb. 4, 1942, and I received my orders on Feb. 10."

Wilson's first post was Fort Ontario, N.Y. but he didn't stay long. Soon he was ordered to an outfit in New Jersey that was guarding New York harbor. He was housed at Pier 90 on Manhattan, barely a block from where his wife was working as a civilian.



Lt Col Pierpont in Korea in the 1950s

"That tour was supposed to last two weeks," he said. "I was there nearly a year."

Wilson eventually wound up as a personnel officer in the Pacific but he "never heard a shot fired in anger." He served two tours in Japan and one in Korea, all in personnel.

In 1954, Wilson was posted to Fort Hood, Texas, his toughest assignment.

"The Army was constantly short on officers," he said, "and I was the personnel officer for two divisions. I constantly had to move people from one unit to another. That caused a lot of friction."

Wilson spent the rest of his career in Germany and the U.S. His last job was at the Pentagon. It was also the most rewarding because the Army chief of staff "almost always approved my recommendations."

After he retired, Wilson went back to work in the personnel field as an Army civilian. He retired again in 1971 but his wife stayed as a budget analyst until 1981.

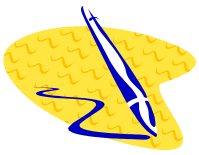
Wilson and Suzanne moved to Mount Pleasant in 2003. She passed away in 2008, but Wilson remains the eternal optimist.

The evidence: the last time he renewed his MOAA membership it was for 10 years.

Way to go, Wilson!



Lt Col Pierpont today, at his home in Mount Pleasant



President's Pen

Happy New Year!!! A huge "thank you" is in order to recognize the past officers and board members for their hard work and accomplishments. Thank you, Cliff, for your support and your guidance over the past few months. I look forward to working with all of the chapter officers and with each and every member to continue the outstanding chapter progress Cliff has overseen these last four years!!

I am one of those who accepts the philosophy "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and Cliff has passed the gavel on from an outstanding chapter. The officers, directors and I will work to ensure our meetings and agendas continue to offer each of you interesting and challenging speakers and programs. Our chapter will remain at the top of the list, not only in South Carolina, but also the nation. Our 5-star streamers demonstrate the chapter is a leader and I pledge to continue in the direction Cliff has started us.

Our membership is a critical piece to the success of the Charleston Chapter. Whether you are actively involved in attending the monthly meetings and other activities or whether you continue to support our chapter with your local chapter dues, please know that your membership is valuable to support the various missions of the chapter such as our support and award recognition of more than 23 local High School JROTC programs, Toys for Tots involvement, Veteran's Affairs and many others! We will continue to have an informative newsletter that will keep you abreast of affairs of interest to those of you who have served in the military whether as a military member or the spouse of a military member.

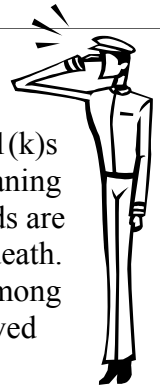
The Board is presently considering a change in the by-laws to allow spouses of members to hold office. This will provide opportunities to increase our membership, as well as open doors to more people to serve. This will also provide new ideas for improving our chapter meetings and outside programs. More to come on this issue.

As Cliff pointed out, we still need a Legislative Affairs director and any member can step forward to assist in this important position. I want to make a special recognition of CDR John Nolan who has done an outstanding job for so many years and continues to do so until a replacement is identified.

Again, I thank each of you for your support and confidence by selecting me as your next president. I pledge to do all in my power to keep the Charleston Chapter at the top of the list!!

Ernie

Did You Know?



Most retirement plans, including 401(k)s and IRAs, are income tax-deferred, meaning that income tax is not paid until the funds are distributed to you in life, or upon your death. This taxation makes retirement assets among the most costly assets to distribute to loved ones.

Because they are subject to income taxes to your beneficiaries, retirement assets make ideal gifts to tax-exempt charitable organizations such as Charleston MOAA's *Future Military Officers Scholarship Program*. Otherwise, the income taxes on retirement assets you leave to your loved ones can be as high as 35 percent. This means that an IRA worth \$10,000 will be worth only \$6,500 by the time it reaches your heirs.

On the other hand, the naming of a charity as the beneficiary of retirement assets upon death generates no income taxes. Charleston MOAA's scholarship fund is tax-exempt and eligible to receive the full amount and bypass any income taxes. This means that in the above example, the *Future Military Officers Scholarship Program* would receive the full \$10,000 benefit.

REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

CW3 David L. Unwin, USN, Ret

December 22, 2010

Survived by wife, Betty

CDR Albert A. Wood, JR, USN, Ret

5 January 2011

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

Help Your Survivors Now

How, you ask? Where is your DD214? Your survivors may not receive all the entitlements for which you have worked so hard. MOAA has the answers in many publications available to members.

For more information on these publications, call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit MOAA online at www.MOAA.ORG. You may also contact LCDR William J. Mehard, Director of Chapter Personal Affairs at 554-8391 or at mehardw@bellsouth.net.



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Need to get in touch with the chapter?

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page 6 or mail us at

Chapter Mailing Address

Charleston Chapter MOAA
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Charleston, SC 29415-0421



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Services available to eligible patrons and guests

Some Photos from the Christmas Luncheon at Carrabbas Restaurant



Berneice Fuller, John Nolan, Rick Ett and Stacy Hull enjoyed each others company at MOAA's Luncheon on December 17th.



Michael Girone and Ernie Brockman enjoy a moment at the Christmas Luncheon.



Rudy Smart, Terry Joyce, Cliff Abbey, Ed Knowles, Al Smith and Ernie Brockman share a laugh at the Christmas Luncheon.

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EDITOR	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller, USA	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
CHAPLAIN	CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN	553-9581	capthenryl@comcast.net
SCHOLARSHIP	COL Rudy Smart, USAF	824-1263	rsmart1@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.

**Sam Stafford III, M.D.
Mt. Pleasant Dermatology**

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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: 459
Auxiliary Members: 101
Honorary Members: 26
Receiving E-Mail Newsletters: 96

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

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:

Mrs. Mary Brewer, AUX

Col. Jeffrey C. Butler, USAF (Ret.)

Mrs. Sheila Harris, AUX

Mrs. Joyce H. Owens, AUX

Mrs. Betty W. Perry, AUX

Mrs. Norma Weir, AUX



Happy Valentine's Day

**CHARLESTON CHAPTER
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