



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

March, 2011 Issue 3-2011

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Web site: www.chasmoaa.org



MASSING OF THE COLORS

Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 3:00 PM

Summerall Chapel

on The Citadel Campus

The Citadel Buglers, Bagpiper, and Color Guards of invited Organizations

Principal Speaker

Commander Richard L. Schreadley, USN (Ret.) former Executive Editor, Charleston Post and Courier

A colorful, dignified, patriotic ceremony dedicated to the flag of our country and the Colors of participating Organizations, the memory of those members of the Military Services who gave their lives to preserve our liberties, and to honor those who have served and are now serving to ensure our continued freedom



Presented by

The General Westmoreland/Charleston, SC Chapter of The Military Order of the World Wars

Plan on joining the many Military and civilian organizations at this truly memorable ceremony. The Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America will be in attendance. Guests are requested to be seated in the Chapel by 2:45 PM.

Looking for a Legislative Director

John Nolan's Term as Legislative Director has expired, and we are looking for someone to replace him. If you are interested, please contact President Brockman.

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

March Luncheon

Ever worry about what must be done administratively if a loved one passes, particularly if the loved one was a military retiree or receiving benefits? Is there specific paperwork that must be processed? Who must be contacted? Can I obtain help from anyone if confusion exists? What papers must I get together and who do I talk to? If you're like many of us, the tendency is to avoid these sort of questions because of the implied unpleasantness attached to them. Join us March 25th to hear Kathy Perry speak to these questions and more. Ms. Perry is the Casualty Assistance representative at the Airman and Family Readiness Center on base where she has been helping people deal with these situations for over 10 years.

- Place: Charleston Club, Charleston AFB
Date: Friday, March 25th, 2011.
Time: Social Hour 11AM
Lunch: 12 Noon.
Menu: Serve Yourself Seafood buffet (fried/steamed shrimp, collards, red rice, baked/fried cod, hush puppies, soup & salad, dessert)
Cost: \$13.00 per person (non-members), \$11.00 (members). Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA.
Dress: Casual.
RSVP: Check to arrive NLT Tuesday, March 22nd, 2011.
Mail to: LCDR William Mehard, 5926 Commonwealth Circle, Hanahan, SC 29410-2431 (Dave & Dot are cruising...)

For additional information call 554-8391 (home) or 834-0974 (cell) or Email: mehardw@bellsouth.net

Legislative Update

CDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

WHY DID MY TAX WITHHOLDING GO UP ?

It's not that there is some nefarious new tax hike, or that you fell through the crack in recent tax cut extension.

It's because the two-year Making Work Pay (MWP) tax relief program enacted in 2009 cut tax withholding rates from checks in 2009 and 2010.

The program wasn't extended to 2011, so the tax tables reverted to the old higher rates. The MWP program was to act as a special stimulus program to put extra money in citizens hands right away. It was intended only to apply to qualifying taxpayers still earning wages.

However, since DFAS uses the same tax tables and pay systems for retired pay as it does for active duty pay, the system didn't discriminate between retired pay and wages.

This doesn't mean that you owe more or are paying higher taxes - it's just that DFAS has returned to withholding the pre-stimulus amount from each deposit.

If this results in too much money being withheld, you will receive any over payment amount via a tax refund. If the change causes you some problems, you can submit an IRS form W-4 to DFAS or your pay agency to change your withholding amount. Changes can also be made to DFAS using the on-line "My Pay" system.

Remember that changing your withholding won't change your 2011 tax liability. If you have too little withheld you will have to pony up the rest (and any applicable penalty, if you Under-withheld too much) when you file your 2011 federal income taxes.

PENTAGON BACKTRACKS ON TRICARE FEE HIKES

In 2007 and 2008, Defense Secretary Gates shocked the military community by proposing major TRICARE fee increases. MOAA and The Military Coalition strongly objected to these increases as being grossly out of line with the up-front premiums of service and sacrifice already contributed by retired military families.

Congress agreed and rejected the proposed increases. For the first two years of the Obama administration, Secretary Gates proposed no new TRICARE fee hikes, but in recent months he has been telling every audience that he has spoken to that the FY2010 budget would propose modest TRICARE fee increases for working age retirees. Evidently, DoD listened. The FY 2012 budget submission entails no changes for TRICARE Standard or TRICARE For Life, and no means testing of fees.

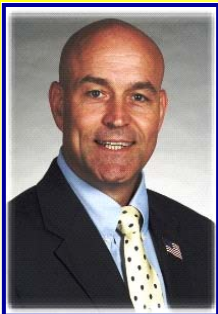
It proposes modest gradual changes for TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, and would exempt military disability (chapter 61) retirees and survivors from those changes.

Raising the 2012 Prime enrollment fees by 13%- from \$230 single/\$460 family per year to \$260 /\$520 (survivor and chapter 61 retirees fees would remain at current rates).

Changing TRICARE pharmacy co-pays as follows (changes indicated in parenthesis):

	Retail	Home Delivery (Mail Order)
Generic	\$ 5 (+\$2)	Zero (-\$ 2)
Brand Name	\$ 12 (+\$3)	\$ 9 (no change)
Nonformulary	\$ 25 (+3)	\$ 25 (+3)

(Continued on Page 4)



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Captain Toby Spahr III, USN Warship Commander



In the Navy, one job stands above all others. That job, according to retired Navy Capt. Toby Spahr III, is the commanding officer of a warship.

“Any time you’re the commanding officer on a ship, there’s no better place to be,” Spahr said recently during a visit to his office in Mount Pleasant. It’s a job he held twice during his 30-year career.

Toby’s office is close to Patriots Point and Charleston Harbor. The location makes sense when you consider how much of his life he has spent at sea.

Toby was born in Newport, R.I., the son of a Navy officer. He moved often as part of a Navy family. Included was a year in Charleston where he and his sister became the first non-Catholic youngsters to attend Bishop England High School.

Toby went on to the University of Florida. He graduated in 1968 and enlisted in the Navy’s Officer Candidate School, where, in October 1968, he was designated a Distinguished Graduate.

From there, Toby built a 30-year career as a surface warfare officer. He spent tours aboard the destroyer Sarsfield, the LST York County, the frigate Edward McDonnell and the aircraft carrier America.

Toby was the carrier’s assistant engineering officer while aboard. It was the most challenging tour of his career.

“Just the expanse of the engineering was huge,” he said. That, added to the year he spent aboard the America while it was being overhauled in a shipyard, made it his toughest tour.

On the plus side, the work also prepared Toby for his first command aboard the frigate McCloy.



The USS Moosbrugger

“I was the only lieutenant commander commanding a frigate on the East Coast. We often tracked Soviet subs with a special towed array. It was a challenge but we got very good at it.”

After a tour at the Pentagon, Toby returned to sea as commanding officer of the destroyer Moosbrugger, homeported at Charleston. The “Moose” was also fitted with special equipment to track submarines.

“I was part of a Surface Warfare team that wound up with more time (tracking) Soviet subs than anyone in the Navy,” he said.

In 1991, during the first Persian Gulf War, Toby assumed command of the Maritime Interception Forces Command, whose warships stopped and searched merchant vessels that could be secretly hauling weapons into the area.

“We put boarding parties aboard merchant ships and even dropped SEAL teams from helicopters if necessary to force ships to stop and be inspected,” he said. But they never had to fire directly at any merchant ships.

Toby retired from the Navy on July 1, 1998. He spent 10 of the last 17 years of his life living aboard a sailboat, stoking his love of the sea.

Toby has also been a Realtor with Carolina One for the past 10 years, helping people make what he calls “the biggest financial decision of their lives.”

He also recently joined MOAA Charleston. His interest and enthusiasm are evident among all who meet him.

Welcome aboard, Toby!



Captain Toby Spahr II



President's Pen

I hope everyone had a nice Valentine's Day and President's Day. I'm not sure how Washington would view our moving his birthday to give our government workers a long weekend as "President's Day"; but, that would probably not bother him as much as some of the other things they are doing in Washington these days!!

Our February luncheon meeting was a great success. We had over 50 present at Zeus' and had an outstanding program!! I hope we can continue increasing our membership and our attendance at the meetings. I have challenged our Board to continue providing interesting topics and speakers to ensure our meetings are interesting and informative. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact Dave Farley.

Please pay close attention to the proposed changes to our Chapter by-laws included in this month's issue. We as a Board are trying to provide a cost-effective way to inform our membership of proposed changes, as well as allowing input from our members to ensure the Board is acting in the Chapter's best interest.

Again, thanks to all who attended our February luncheon and made it such a success.

Ernie

Legislative Update (Continued from page 2)

MOAA is encouraged that the new proposals avoids the Draconian TRICARE fee hikes proposed in the past .

While some areas warrant additional adjustments, it makes a better effort to recognize that career military people pre-pay a very large price for their life time health coverage up front-through decades of service.

However, MOAA strongly objects to the proposed annual adjustment methodology that would inappropriately tie fee increases for non-disabled military beneficiaries aged 38-64 to healthcare cost growth for a more elderly and disabled Medicare population.

MOAA believes that , in recognition of military beneficiaries' lengthy service and sacrifice, any such adjustments should be capped closely to the percentage increase in their military compensation.

CHAPTER BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The Charleston Chapter MOAA Board of Director proposes a change to "ARTICLE XI-Amendments of the Bylaws. At our general membership meeting on 25 March, a vote will be taken to change Section 1 as follows:

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members attending any duly authorized meeting of the chapter, provided that a synopsis of any amendment proposed for consideration was published in the chapter's newsletter to appear at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting, at which time the proposed amendment will be provided to members prior to voting.

(Editor's Note: Underlining indicates change. The current Bylaws are displayed at www.chasmoaa.org)

REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

LT COL Kenneth R. Waggoner, USAF, Ret

January 23rd, 2011

Survived by wife, Norma

CW4 Ernest J. Miller, USA

January 29th, 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.

For more detailed information, plan on attending the March Luncheon at the Club.



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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

Charleston Chapter MOAA
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February Visit to the VA Hospital



JROTC Cadet Matthew Yost (from left) visits with veterans Harley Reed and Robert Rokoske during a visit to the Ralph Johnson VA Medical Center. At right are MOAA's Ernie Brockman and Cadet Trevor Ware.



Rob Knight, Toby Spahr, John Nolan and Walt McGuire enjoy a moment before lunch at MOAA Charleston's meeting on January 21st.

January Luncheon at the Charleston Club



John Allison and Arthur Allison had a great time at MOAA Charleston's January luncheon at the Charleston Club

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2nd VP MEMBERSHIP	COL Allan T. Smith, USAF (thru 2012)	572-2011	alandmarty@comcast.net
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Recruiting Chairperson	COL Beverly R. Brockman USA (thru 2013)	875-4465	bbrockman@sc.rr.com

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)

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: 463
Auxiliary Members: 101
Honorary Members: 27
Receiving E-Mail Newsletters: 98

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/. You will need the latest version of Adobe Reader which is available on our web 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 will go up again!!) 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.

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.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS

One 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 member:

LTC Ellen C. Beckmann, USA (Ret.)

WELCOME ABOARD

Lt Col Samuel R. Oppelaar Jr., USAF (Ret.)

8439 Dorchester Road #122
North Charleston, SC 29420

LTC Jack E. Parker, USA (Ret.)

PO Box 1161
Mount Pleasant, SC 29465

CAPT Toby Spahr, USN (Ret.)

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