



## Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

October, 2011 Issue 9-2011

Published monthly, except July

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

### VA Hospital Visit



AFROTC Cadet Dorian Ward visits with Army Vet William Gammons during a visit on August 27th to the VA Medical Center.



USAF Vet Deleon Johnson shakes hands with AFJROTC Cadet Amanda Sosa during our latest visit to the VA Medical Center.

During our August visit, we were again accompanied by members of the Fort Dorchester Air Force JROTC, who actively participated in our visit with the veterans who are patients at the VA Medical Center. They seemed to enjoy meeting with the veterans, and the veterans seemed pleased to have these young men and women show their gratitude for their service.

Make plans now to attend our next visit, which will be in November, around Veterans Day. Look for the information in our November Newsletter.

### October Luncheon

While we're on active duty, many of us think of the Veterans Administration in terms of the home loan we obtained for our house. Not too many of us spend time wondering how the VA will affect our lives. Then, we retire – or separate from service – and become “veterans”, and soon the VA and the benefits it provides veterans become a more significant factor in our lives. Join us 28 October at Sunfire Grill & Bistro as Mr. James Ard, Deputy Director, Veterans Administration Southeast Region, speaks about the VA, the various programs it provides veterans, and how we as beneficiaries can most effectively interface with them.

Place: Sunfire Grill & Bistro, 1090 Sam Rittenberg Blvd, Charleston, phone 766-0223.

Date: Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Time: Social Hour 11AM (cash bar)

Lunch: 12 Noon

Menu: Choice of Grilled Salmon BLT, Steak & Cheese Hoagie (with or without pepper/onions) or Garden Salad with chicken; choice of Homecut fries, Fruit or Coleslaw; tea or coffee.

Cost: \$17.00 per person. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA

Dress: Casual

RSVP: Check to arrive NLT Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Mail To: Dave Farley, CDR, USN, Ret  
126 Cainhoy Landing Road, Wando,  
SC 29492

Need additional information: Call 881-9452 (home); 708-8110 (cell); or e-mail [defarley@bellsouth.net](mailto: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. Because of this we've begun updating our chapter Legislative Affairs website every couple of days with breaking legislative news and/or news needing MOAA member action.*

### **Rough seas ahead!**

#### ***Is it the sound of silence or just the calm before the storm coming out of Washington?***

Since last month, it would seem the brouhaha over the urgency to cut the national debt has gone underground. Washington has quietly begun to work on new spending initiatives and the Super Committee (**Dirty Dozen**) has begun low key meetings feeling out committee members on their hard and soft positions.

Congressmen, as a whole, are publically steering clear of broaching the subject and/or commenting on anything that sounds like spending or cutting. They seem to have gone to ground, preferring to let the Dirty Dozen handle the rough, unsavory stuff while looking for opportunities to ensure their re-election in 2012. Dirty Dozen Republican committee members continued to reiterate their position to target so called entitlement (Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid/government programs) funding while Democrats pressed for higher taxes.

Under the usual circumstances, the sounds of silence would be a welcomed refrain coming out of Washington; however, deafening silence after such a boisterous and tumultuous spring/summer leads one to ask ... is this the calm before the storm? The Dirty Dozen must come to agreement on a proposed method to cut more than \$1T over the next ten years at least three weeks before their November deadline in order to draft and gain full committee approval of the language in the bill before they send it to Congress for the "ALL UP ... or ... ALL DOWN" vote.

They may begin to leak (unofficial/unauthorized) teasers to the press the last couple of weeks in October to gain a sense of public support/disagreement; however, I suspect they will attempt to keep a lid on everything until the very end in an effort to limit public discourse and ram the bill through congress. Once the bill is passed, or defeated, further discussion will be futile. It will become the law.

### **Which way is the wind blowing?**

Fair or foul ... depends on ones point of view. The deficit has reached a point of extremis and unrestrained spending cannot continue. While Rep. Van Hollen (D) told the committee, "It's time for this committee to get real and recognize that, yes, there are spending issues, but there's also a revenue issue ... We've got to have a balanced approach." The Dirty Dozen has already shown signs of fragmentation along party lines (or theologies).

Rep. Hensarling (R) quizzed Elmendorf (head of the Congressional Budget Office) regarding statistics showing Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid cost growing at a faster rate than in the past and then quoted President Obama as saying, "The major driver of our long-term liabilities ... is Medicare and Medicaid and our health care spending ...",

Sen. Kerry (D) gained Elmendorf's agreement on the issue that federal revenues have been relatively high as a proportion of the overall economy since WWII, thus countering Republican arguments that taxes are already too high.

Add to these:

Sen. Inouye's (D) (Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman) 13 September proposal to dramatically cut the 2012 DOD budget request by \$26B by "... program terminations, schedule delays, program changes ... or corrections to poor fiscal discipline;" such as ending the joint light tactical vehicle program, \$1.2B by delaying production of the F-35 aircraft for two years, \$5B by troop reductions in Afghanistan, and \$2B from Army maintenance funds. This could be in addition to any DOD cuts imposed by the Dirty Dozen.

Sen. Levin's (D) (Armed Service Committee Chairman) statement, during Undersecretary of Defense Carter's confirmation hearing, that DOD could save money by relocating 300,000 troops stationed overseas and closing some of the nearly 700 overseas bases, installations, and other DOD sites; such as reducing military presence in Europe (England/Germany), relocating Marines from Okinawa to the U.S. rather than relocating to Guam, and reducing presence in Asia (Japan/S. Korea). Relocation of forces could equate to an additional troop drawdown since their forward basing would no longer be required and thus there would no longer be a requirement to maintain active duty troop end strength to support those arenas.

**(Continued on page 6)**



# CAPT Fred Massey, USN Career Navy, Red Cross, JROTC



Most of us know what it means when we say we're in the service. Because we're military, it means we have sworn to serve our country, even at risk with our lives.

Retired Navy Capt. Fred Massey has mastered the notion of service well. He served for 33 years in the Navy, but he didn't stop serving when he hung up his uniform. Retirement simply meant he could serve in other venues.

In Fred's case, it meant becoming a high school history teacher and later the founder of a Navy Junior ROTC unit. But he didn't stop there.

More recently, he became chairman of the American Red Cross' Volunteer Disaster Services covering seven counties. That means he must have the Red Cross ready to venture out whenever a disaster strikes.

Fred's career in the Navy began in 1959 after he graduated from high school in Red Bank, N.J. He became an enlisted man trained in electronics.

"It was a brand new career field and there weren't many billets in electronics," he said. "So, I waited a full year until a billet opened up."

Fred must have shown some promise, because soon the Navy sent him to Vanderbilt University where he earned a degree in English and a commission. With those tickets in hand, he was ready to go to helicopter school. Fred's first job after pilot training was to fly H-3 helicopters with an airborne countermeasures unit in Norfolk, Va.

"We towed sleds through the water from the helicopter," he said. "The idea was to detonate any (submerged) mines from a safe distance."

Years later he would use that technique to detonate mines in the Persian Gulf and Haiphong Harbor in North Vietnam. In the meantime, his career began shifting more to mine warfare even though he continued flying.



**Fred Massey in 1959 after completing Boot Camp**

Fred attended mine warfare school in 1970. Later that year he transferred to the mine warfare command in Charleston where he helped develop the Navy's mine warfare plans.

Through the next two decades, whenever the Navy had to deal with mines, Fred was there. He completed the Naval War College's command and staff course, then moved back to Norfolk where he became commanding officer of a helicopter mine countermeasures squadron.

Next was Washington, where Fred briefed admirals on mine warfare, followed by tours in Norfolk and Charleston where he commanded the Mobile Mine Assembly Group.

Fred retired in 1992 but not before he served a tour in Panama as the Inspector General for U.S. Southern Command. His last post was at the Washington Navy Yard where he was Director of Investigations for the Navy's Inspector General.

When asked to name his most rewarding assignment, Fred said it "was a toss-up" between his job at the Pentagon and his work in Southern Command.

"I finally got to use my Spanish assisting people, both military and civilian," he said.

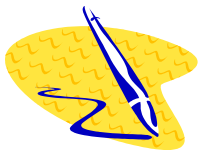
Fred worked for Charleston County schools for 15 years after the Navy during which he established Junior ROTC units at St. Andrews High School and later West Ashley High School. He retired from the school district in 2007.

Finally, Fred's work at the Charleston Region of the American Red Cross would appear to be the high point in a lifetime pledged to service.

Congratulations on a great career, Fred, and thank you!



**Fred and Janet Massey at a convention of the MOWW earlier this year**



## President's Pen

As I write this, Beverly and I have just returned from this morning's performance of the US Army's Spirit of America. It has been advertized in the Post and Courier several times and I have referred to it in a couple of President's Pen articles. If you missed this opportunity to see their performance in the North Charleston Coliseum, you have missed a great performance. You would have seen America's young soldiers at their best – telling the story of America's army from its inception until today. And, it was FREE!!!

The Coliseum was full for this first performance with young and old. The old were treated to "reminders" of things they had read, seen and lived during the years of the draft. The young were treated to a history that I hope they are being taught in school. Today, we hear so many things about history being re-written. Today's youth need to be taught the truth!!

It was especially meaningful coming this close to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of September 11, 2001. I was at a conference in Salt Lake City, Utah the morning the news cameras broke into programming showing the airliners crashing into the towers and bringing them down – the United States' second Day of Infamy!!

Beverly and I are planning to attend the State Conference in Myrtle Beach in October and the Charleston Chapter members and Auxiliary members that have been lost since the last Conference in 2009 will be remembered. I hope some of you will join us for this outing.

Butch and Berneice will be representing the Charleston Chapter in San Antonio, Texas, the last weekend in October to receive the Chapter's Four Star Award for Excellence. Thanks to all the members for keeping the Charleston Chapter in the spotlight!!

This just in – Representative Tim Scott has invited veterans from "America's Greatest Generation" and the survivors of deceased WWII veterans to join him aboard the USS Yorktown at 8:30 am on Saturday, November 5, 2011, to recognize the magnificent service rendered by these selfless Americans who we are still blessed to have with us and who reside in the First Congressional District of South Carolina. If you are a WW II veteran, or a survivor of a deceased WW II Veteran, please contact Roger Yongue or Earl Copeland in the Charleston District Office at 843-852-2222 or 888-868-0737.

*Ernie*

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming chapter events:

Friday, Oct 14th - Chapter Board Meeting, 12:15

Friday, Oct 28th - Chapter Luncheon, Sunfire Grill

Friday, Nov 11th - Chapter Board Meeting, 12:15

Friday, Nov 18th - Red's Ice House

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

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

## Survivor Benefit Plan

If you have any questions about SBP, the benefits experts at MOAA can help. Simply call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit their Web site at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org).

Many MOAA publications can be downloaded from [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), then click on "Publications", "Books & Guides", and finally "Interactive Form". These forms can be printed or saved to your hard drive for later use and update.

"Benefits for Survivors of Deceased Retired Military Personnel" Contact Kathleen Perry at Joint Base Charleston, CAFB, Building 500, tel: 843-963-4406.

If you have any questions concerning Personnel Affairs, contact William Mehard, LCDR USN, Ret. (554-8391 or [mehardw@bellsouth.net](mailto:mehardw@bellsouth.net))

## REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

**CAPT Robert F. Bennett, USN, Retired**  
**Departed 9 September 2011**  
**Survived by Wife, Barbara**

**Barbara C. Duc,**  
**Departed August 13, 2011**  
**Survived by Husband LT COL Albert C. Duc,**  
**USAF, Ret**

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

**SC Council of Chapters Conference**

Date: October 9 - 11, 2011

Place: [Myrtle Beach Hilton - Kingston Plantation](#)

- Room Reservations - **Hilton Myrtle Beach.**
- **\*\*\***The Hilton **Myrtle Beach** has extended the **"\$90 Conference"** room rate to attendees for **2 days before and 2 days after the conference.** A rare opportunity to make your trip a real vacation!!!! **\*\*\***Reservations must be made before September 23 to receive the special conference rate. Call 1-800-876-0010 to make reservations.

Among the distinguished visitors invited will be: Senator Graham, Senator DeMint, Representative Scott, Representatives Hardwick, Alexander, Campbell, Grooms, Smith and Sottile, as well as Barry Wright, Col, USA,( ret) MOAA ,Washington D.C.

In addition, some of the many interesting topics to be covered are: MOAA Tops, TriCare Updates, Air Force Village, Military Retirement Issues and a National Guard update.



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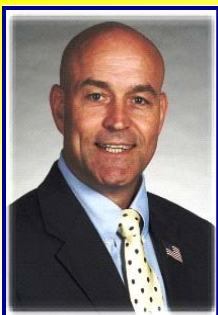


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## Legislative update (Cont'd from page 2)

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

Stay alert and be vigilant for new developments and initiatives coming out of Washington. Contact our elected representatives and offer your "solution/ideas" as to how they might go about solving the debt and program funding problem. Take the time to write/email members of the Dirty Dozen committee and lend them the benefit of your council. Steer clear of emotional arguments. Get involved.

Visit MOAA National's Legislative Affairs Action website and email/print and mail their suggested position papers on subjects of urgent interest to military retirees and veterans. Their suggested messages can be annotated to more closely to reflect your position and/or be personalized. Send one from your spouse while you're at it. Mention that you are a member of the Charleston Chapter of MOAA.

Come to our monthly meetings, be vocal, and ... how about helping us recruit more members for our chapter.



## Our Website has been updated

As always, new information has been added just for you.

It was updated on September 10th, 2011, and you better take the time to scroll all the way down to the bottom so you won't miss anything new that has been added. Also, check out Legislative Affairs, as well.

Updates have been made on many pages. Click the various tabs to see what other information is available for you.

Videos and pictures are available for you. Check out what's happening under the "Chapter" tab.

Congratulations to Rudy Smart and several other Board Members for all of their hard work.

Look us up on [www.chasmoaa.org](http://www.chasmoaa.org).

### MOAA Seeks Relief from Inadvertent Tax Hike

Many members have expressed concerns that getting an extra paycheck in 2012 could inadvertently hike their tax bills next April 15th. Are you a super Committee constituent? MOAA is launching a mailing to generate tens of thousands of constituent inputs to the 12 legislators who sit on the Super Committee. Look for it soon.

### 2011-2012 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>BG Ernest D. Brockman, USA (thru 2012)</b>	<b>875-4465</b>	<b>ebrockman@sc.rr.com</b>
<b>1st VP PROGRAMS</b>	<b>CDR David E. Farley, USN (thru 2012)</b>	<b>881-9452</b>	<b>defarley@bellsouth.net</b>
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<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>LTCOL. Ed Knowles, USAF (thru 2012)</b>	<b>553-5299</b>	<b>r66837.comcast.net</b>
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<b>RECRUITING CHAIR</b>	<b>COL Beverly R. Brockman USA (thru 2013)</b>	<b>875-4465</b>	<b>bbrockman@sc.rr.com</b>

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

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<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>COL Rudy Smart, USAF</b>	<b>824-1263</b>	<b>2smart1@gmail.com</b>

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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: 425  
Auxiliary Members: 93  
Honorary Members: 27

**Receiving E-Mail Newsletters: 100**

## 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 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](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.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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