

Bridge View



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

December 2007



Web site: www.chasmoaa.org

OUR CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

This year, our Christmas Function will be a little different. Instead of our normal routine of a dinner and dance at the Club, we have decided to have a luncheon at the Oaks Country Club in Goose Creek.

The menu is great, and the entertainment promises to be fantastic, with 80 children from College Park Middle School performing for us in several different languages. They are a very talented group, and we are sure that you will enjoy their presentation

This promises to be a grand affair, so make your plans to attend now. We are absolutely sure that you will be pleased.

The group is planning a trip to Florida, and need some support, so whatever you can give would be sincerely appreciated. They are going to sing in the Universal Stars Festival. It is not a competition, but a chance to sing, represent their home school, and have fun. They will be singing excerpts from the Broadway Musical Grease, sing Bach in German, sing a Latin hymn entitled Gloria in Excelsis Deo, some Christmas Carols and the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. So when you check in be sure to drop off a donation for their trip.



Christmas Program

We will have 80 young children ages 12 to 14 from the College Park Middle School. These children are planning a trip to Florida and are preparing songs from the musical Grease to perform at Universal Studios in Orlando. They will be singing a few of those and some nice Christmas Carols. They will also sing the Hallelujah Chorus by Handel, Bist DU Bie Mir by Bach, and a little Latin, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

Place: The Oaks Country Club in Goose Creek

Date: 18 December 2007

Time: 11:00 a.m. Social Time
11:30 Children will sing
12:15 p.m. Lunch

Menu: Steamship Round of Beef, Roast turkey w/ Dressing, Green Beans, Macaroni & Cheese, Tossed Salad, Pasta Salad, Fruit Salad, Rolls, coffee, tea, water

Cost: \$27.00

Make check payable to: Charleston MOAA

Dress: Casual

RSVP: NLT 14 December

Mail to: Lt Cliff Abbey
100 Cheshire Dr.
Goose Creek, SC 29445



Note: Any contributions to assist these children in financing their trip to Florida will be greatly appreciated.

Directions: From Rivers Avenue, take NAD Road. Cross over the bridge. Go thru the light and get in the left lane. Take a left on Old State Road, Oaks Ave. Take the first left on Oaks Ave. Keep straight. Country Club is at the end of Oaks Ave. Signs will be posted. My cell number is 814-5056. *Cliff*

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



Legislative Update

CDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM UPDATES

Medicare Parts A and B are required for participation in TRICARE For Life (TFL). You don't have to pay a premium for Part A if you paid Medicare taxes while you were employed. Medicare beneficiaries are responsible for the monthly Part B premium.

TFL has no annual premium and will pay the Medicare Part B deductible (\$135.00 IN 2008) as long as the service provided is covered by Medicare and TRICARE.

Part B premiums are indexed to your income .Medicare uses the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) to determine your income. It is a combination of your adjusted gross income shown on line 37 of your IRS income tax form 1040 and your tax-exempt interest as shown on line 8b Form 1040. To determine your 2008 Part B premium Medicare will use the most recent tax return information provided by the IRS. For most people this information will be provided from tax returns filed in 2007 (for tax year 2006) and 2006 (for tax year 2005).

Contact Medicare if there is a change in your income level . Explain you have new information and may need a new decision regarding your Part B premium. (you have married divorce or your spouse died, you or your spouse stopped working etc.).

Medicare means testing was enacted by Congress in 2003 as part of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. Retirees with MAGI of at least \$82,000 and couples with incomes of at least \$164,000 are affected. Income levels are determined by a review of the past two years tax returns filed with the

Internal Revenue Service. Seniors should receive written notice from the Social Security Administration stating how much they should pay, based on the previous two years tax returns.

If you receive Social Security benefits , you should receive your new rate along with the December cost-of-living adjustment notice.

The 2003 Congressional Act reduces the government Part B subsidy from it's current 75% for all beneficiaries to 65% or less for wealthier seniors. By 2009 ,wealthier seniors will pay between 30% and 80% of the cost of their Part B coverage instead of the current 25%.

The chart below shows the monthly rates for Part B premiums in 2008.

MONTHLY PREMIUMS	YEARLY INCOME	
	Single	Married Couples
\$96.40	\$82,000 or less	\$164,000 or less
\$122.20	\$82,001-\$102,000	\$164,001- \$204,000
\$160.90	\$102,001-\$153,000	\$204,001- \$306,000
\$199.70	\$153,001-\$205,000	\$306,001- \$410,000
\$238.40	Above \$205,000	Above -\$410,000

Important: If you didn't sign up for Medicare Part B when you first became eligible, the cost of Medicare Part B will go up 10% for each full 12 month period that you could have had Medicare Part B but did not take . You will have to pay this penalty as long as you have Medicare Part B.

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COL Barr Younker, USAF, (Ret) Member of America's Greatest Generation



From propeller-driven bombers to the world's largest jet transports, retired Col. Barr D. Younker has flown them all., or so it seems.

Barr's Air Force career spanned the late stages of World War II through the Vietnam era. The planes he flew ranged from B-24 Liberators to the C-5 Galaxies that once were stationed in Charleston.

"My most challenging assignment was as a C-5 squadron commander," Barr said recently. "We were transitioning into a new airplane and it had all sorts of problems."

That was in the early 1970s, about the time the first C-5 landed at Charleston Air Force Base only to have a wheel break loose from the landing gear and bounce down the runway as a host of dignitaries watched. The C-5 has 28 wheels, prompting the late U.S. Rep. Mendel Rivers, who witnessed the incident, say "That's why they have so many of them (wheels)."

Back in 1943, Barr never dreamed he'd one day fly such a plane. He joined the Army Air Corps' Aviation Cadets soon after he graduated from high school in Oil City, Pa. After basic military training at Keesler Field, Miss., he moved to primary flying training at Clarksdale, Miss., followed by basic flying training at Greenville, Miss., and finally advanced training at Stuttgart, Ark.

He graduated from Stuttgart in November, 1944 and was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was 19 years old.

Soon, "I was training in B-24s at Tonopah, Nev.," he said. "I was the co-pilot on the crew and we flew almost every day. I was in Ephrata, Wash., when the war ended."

In 1946, Barr joined the millions of veterans who attended college on the GI bill. He and his late wife, Sarah, were married while he studied mechanical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. He also joined the Air Force Reserve. He was recalled during the Korean War to fly C-82 transports.



**Aviation Cadet Barr
D. Younker, 1943**

"We had to get the training program up and running," he said, "because none of us had ever flown the airplane."

Barr remained on active duty from that point on. He later trained in armament systems which led to a post at Hunter Air Force Base, near Savannah, in the Strategic Air Command's B-50s and B-47s. After a lot of travel, he was posted to Germany as a maintenance officer in a photo reconnaissance outfit.

"I was a maintenance officer but I was lucky enough to fly airplanes, too," he said. "B-26s, B-57s, then B-66s. The B-57 was the best."

Barr and Sarah came home to assignments in jet fighters. Later, after four years in Hawaii, (during which he flew C-118 transports) "I decided to do my bit in Vietnam," he said. "So I trained in C-123s at Hurlburt Field (Fla.) and wound up at Phan Rang Air Base for almost a year."

"We hauled everything. We'd haul live cattle and hose down the plane afterwards. We also hauled a lot of Vietnamese soldiers, and their wives and families. Often we didn't know how many people we had on board."

Barr fractured his back in a bad accident while flying a C-123, but he returned to flying status after weeks in a hospital. Eventually he posted more than 800 flying hours in Vietnam.

When he returned to the States, he was assigned to C-141s at Charleston. He shifted to C-5s, then moved to Dover, Del., when the C-5s were transferred there. He returned to Charleston in 1973 and retired the following year. He logged 8,000 flying hours over more than 30 years in the Air Force.

Along the way, Barr earned an MBA degree at The Citadel. He taught in the local public schools and at Trident Tech before retiring again in 1986.

Sarah died in 1988. Together, they had five children and seven grandchildren. His son is an Air Force lawyer.

"I've been here (in North Charleston) for 30 years," he said, thinking back over a period in which he and millions more became America's greatest generation. MOAA is glad he shared those years with us all.



Lieutenant Younker

Photos from the November visit to the VA Hospital



Steve Rowe with Veteran James Thompson



Rudy Smart visits with John Morris



MOAA Charleston visits the VA Hospital. From left: Rudy Smart, Steve Rowe, Cliff Abbey, Terry Joyce, Verbia Quattlebaum and Butch Fuller.



Sam Stafford III, M.D.
Mt. Pleasant Dermatology
 1280 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.
 Suite 300
 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
 (843) 881-0320



We Still Need You!!!

Wanted , one Vice President, and one Editor..

To run any organization successfully a well rounded board of directors is needed.

With the assumption of duties as President, Cliff Abby, had to relinquish his post as 1st Vice President. Our previous editor, Bill Meisburger, has become ill, and can longer remain as our editor. Butch Fuller is filling in for him in the interim.

The positions are challenging ones, but the satisfaction of serving the chapter in these vital roles is very rewarding. Somewhere out there in our chapter can definitely fill these positions.

Call and submit your name.

The Chapter needs you.

Note!

Auxiliary Members are eligible for this position!

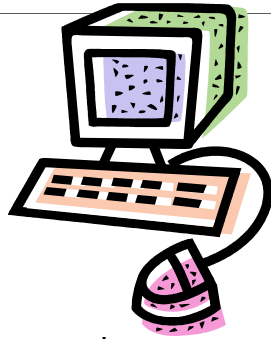
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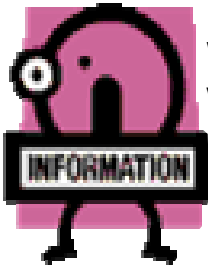
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Computer Users



We need your help. Many people have changed their email addresses and our data base is seriously in need of updating. Will everyone please send an email to Al Smith, our membership man, (alandmarty@comcast.net) so our files can be updated?



We are not going to overwhelm you with a bunch of email. Also, we are not going to give out your email address to anyone.

We protect our members privacy. With an updated email address list, we be able to send a short email to you information or notify you of anything new or hot.

Please help us out. Send Al a short email with your name and email address in it. Al's email address is on page 6. Thanks for your help.

Don't Forget Our Chapter Web Site
www.chasmoaa.org

Photos from the Tea Farm Visit



Retired Navy CAPT Nick Kobylk, his wife Linda, along with retired Navy CDR Dave Farley and his wife, Dot at the Charleston MOAA visit to the Tea Farm.



From Left: USAF (Ret) MAJ Zane Wright, Elsie Folk, Helen Simmons, Carolyn Parler and Buster Parler were among those who enjoyed the Tea Farm visit and luncheon



Charging through the Chow line

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**Customer before Company
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President's Pen

Our October visit to the Tea Plantation was a huge success. The weather cooperated and we had an enthusiastic group who thoroughly enjoyed the entire event.

To comply with many requests this year we have changed our December event from our conventional black tie dinner/dance to a holiday season lunch buffet at The Oak's Country Club in Goose Creek. Our entertainment for the event will consist of some 80 children singing beautiful songs in several different languages. This event is planned for an 11:00 AM social followed by the choral group performance promptly at 11:30 AM so come early for a good seat! Directions are provided on the front page of the December newsletter and direction signs will be posted along the route to keep you on the path.

Please don't forget that the holiday season also brings our annual Toys for Tots campaign. We currently are planning to contribute 120 various non-gender related pieces of sports equipment for this very worthwhile program.

On the chapter business side we are still searching for a First Vice President and an Editor. Additionally there are three board of directors positions to be filled. The three incumbent board members have agreed to remain in their respective positions but we welcome anyone who would like to serve on the board with us. It is a rewarding and fun filled experience. These positions will be finalized at the December annual meeting.

Cliff

TOYS FOR TOTS

MOAA's Cliff Abbey presents a certificate of appreciation to Ernie Stendler, manager of T & T Sports in North Charleston. Once again, T & T Sports has agreed to help the Chapter purchase soccer balls, footballs and basketballs to be given to youngsters at Christmas by the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots Program. This is the eleventh year that the Chapter has been participating in this worthwhile event. Thanks again, Ernie.



A big "Thank You" to CDR Robert Burnett, USN, for his contribution of \$20.00 to Toys for Tots.



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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.

'Any Wounded Soldier' Cards Undeliverable



Walter Reed Army Medical Center officials want to remind those who send mail or packages addressed to "Any Wounded Soldier" that Walter Reed will not accept them in support of the decision by then Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Transportation Policy in 2001. The decision was made to ensure the safety and well being of patients and staff at medical centers throughout the Department of Defense.

Also, the U.S. Postal Service no longer accepts "Any Service Member" or "Any Wounded Service Member" letters or packages. Mail to "Any Service Member" that is deposited into a collection box will not be delivered. Please consider making a donation to one of the more than 300 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families listed on the America Supports You website: (www.americasupportsyoud.com/ americasupportsyoud.com/index.aspx) .



Prepaid Phone Cards for the Holidays



The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's (AAFES) will send Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards through the "Help Our Troops Call Home" program. Designed for the unique needs of deployed Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines, any American can help connect troops and their Families with a 550-minute Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone card by logging on to (<http://www.aafes.org/>) www.aafes.org or calling 800-527-2345. From there, "Help Our Troops Call Home" phone cards can be sent to individual servicemembers (designated by the sender) or even directed to "any servicemember" **through various military aid societies.**

Future Military Officers Scholarship Fund

The chapter always accepts and appreciates donations to our Scholarship fund.

It's a great way to remember someone special, or a great event such as birth of a grandchild. Or simply because you just feel like it.

Rudy Smart, our Scholarship representative, can give all the information you need to make a donation to the fund.

You can find Rudy's contact information in the Board of Directors list on page 6 of this newsletter.



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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: 524
Auxiliary Members: 107
Honorary Members: 36

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2008

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 2008**.

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 2008 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

Seven 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:

CWO3 William L. Cox, USN (Ret.)

Mrs. Madonna Deadmond, AUX)

CDR Richard Driggers, USN (Ret.)

LtCol Richard E. Johnson, USAF (Ret.)

LTC Warren J. McDonald, USA (Ret.)

CW3 James T. Natividad, USA (Ret.)

Mrs. Marion G. Stello, AUX

REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

**COL Herbert C. Eason JR, USAR
Survived by wife Dorothy**

**Lt Col Ralph V. Naples, USA
Survived by wife Anne**

**A contribution will be made to the Scholarship Fund
in memory of our lost members.**

**John Common, DMD, MS
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