

# Bridge View



## Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

October 2007



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



*We're Having A Party and  
You're Invited*

It's a Tea Party at the Charleston Tea Plantation. We will be visiting North America's only commercial tea farm. The tea plantation is located on Wadmalaw Island in the heart of SC low country. It is the home of American Classic Tea. This outing will provide an opportunity not only for a visit but also a guided tour narrated by a third generation tea taster, an opportunity to stroll beneath the grand oaks, and to hear and see how tea is grown and harvested. Lunch is included and there will be ample time to socialize.

**Place:** Charleston Tea Plantation (see map and directions on the right side of this page).

**Date:** Saturday, 27 October 2007

**Time:** 10:45 a.m. (Our tour will start at 11:00 a.m. Please arrive early as this is a hard scheduled time for our group.)

**Lunch:** Will be provided at about 12:30 p.m.  
BYOB if you desire.

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person.  
(Includes tour, a souvenir gift package, and lunch) In addition to the gift package each person will receive, we will have several drawings for some other very nice gifts. You must be present to win.



**RSVP:** NLT 25 October

Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA

**Mail to:** LT. Cliff Abbey  
100 Cheshire Dr  
Goose Creek, S.C. 29445-7128



## Here's Where We Are Going and How to Get There



### DIRECTIONS

#### *From Charleston*

Take Ashley River Bridge (US17), stay left to Folly Rd. (SC171), turn right onto Maybank Hwy. (SC700) for 18 miles, look for entrance signs on the left.

#### *From Charleston Airport and I-26*

Take I-526 West, take a right onto Savannah Hwy. (US17) 4.8 miles, turn left onto Main Rd., follow Main Rd. to Maybank Hwy. (SC700), turn right onto Maybank Hwy. for 10 miles, look for entrance signs on the left.

#### *From Points South*

From Savannah Hwy. (US17), turn right onto Main Rd., follow Main Rd. to Maybank Hwy. (SC700), turn right onto Maybank Hwy. for 10 miles, look for entrance signs on the left.



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

## Legislative Update

### LCDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

#### HOT TIME ON THE HILL

If you thought there were a lot of fireworks in D. C. On July 4th, wait until you see the next few weeks.

Congress hasn't finished appropriations that are due by Oct. 1st to start FY 2008. That's hardly news-Congress rarely finishes the appropriations process on time. But with a Democratic Congress for the first time in his tenure, the President this year is threatening to veto any appropriations bills (other than for Veterans Affairs and Defense) that significantly exceed his proposed budget.

Since congressional leaders have some substantially different priorities, that sets the stage for some fiscal brinkmanship that could extend into the next several months or more. Both parties are not interested in forcing government shutdowns as seen in previous decades but neither side is interested in caving in to the others demands. So it's a good possibility that the Defense Appropriations Bill (a must-pass item in wartime that no one is anxious to see vetoed) could end up having several other appropriations attached to it if legislators see that as the only route to win one big compromise, veto proof appropriation.

Now that Gen. Petraeus has delivered his report on the effectiveness of the surge in Iraq, we can expect continuing rounds of debate on Iraq likely focusing on beginning a withdrawal of some modest level of troops from Iraq. If the Senate can come to an agreement on whether to add or drop that issue, there are still more than 200 other amendments to the bill that need to be addressed, including many MOAA-supported initiatives concerning health care, military pay raises, concurrent receipt, SBP, reserve retirement, and other needs. There definitely should be some late night oil-burning on Capitol Hill this month and possibly the next several months.

#### PENTAGON PLANS TO DROP ID CARD SSAN

In an effort to protect service members from identify theft by removing Social Security account numbers (SSAN) from military ID cards, the Pentagon in July forwarded a report to Congress citing the difficulties in moving entirely away from the use of SSAN, which is fundamental to all of the services' personnel records and innumerable embedded networks of security and record-keeping systems.

However, it is acknowledged that the current system poses problems that need to be addressed and said the Department of Defense intends to phase out the use of the printed SSAN on ID cards over the next several years. The plan is to move to an ID card that would print only the last four digits of the SSAN, with the full SSAN electronically encrypted on the card. This would provide additional protection to the individual members while still preserving data deemed essential for hundreds of purposes.

The reason for the multi-year phase-out is to allow time to convert the large numbers of hardware and software systems to conform to the new card and allow a phased-in replacement of more than three million ID cards of current members, retirees, family members and survivors so ID card facilities aren't overwhelmed.

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U.S. AIR FORCE



# Captain George V. McFadden, USAF, Retired

## Member of the Charleston Chapter

### Experienced Pilot



**George McFadden is holding an aerial camera, which he liberated soon after he arrived in Japan. It was found in a cave near Atsugi Air Base**

When you think of this nation’s “Greatest Generation,” retired Air Force Capt. George McFadden comes to mind.

“I’ve enjoyed life,” George said recently during a visit to his home on James Island. “Lou Gehrig once said he was the luckiest man on the face of the earth. Well, I was a close second.”

McFadden, now 85, made his mark in the Army Air Forces as a pilot with the 3rd Air Commando Group, a forerunner of today’s Special Forces. His job was to fly supplies to airfields in the South Pacific close to where the troops were fighting.

“We hauled bombs, gasoline, even Kotex for the nurses,” McFadden said. “We even landed on one of the boulevards in Manila while the fighting was still going on in the city.”

McFadden was born in Wheeling, W.Va. and graduated in 1940 from Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Ga. Then, it was on to the University of Pittsburgh where he enrolled in ROTC. The nation was at war by the end of his sophomore year and the Army was ready to commission him and bring him on board.

“I was already a licensed pilot,” he said. “The Army wanted pilots to volunteer for light aircraft, using them as artillery spotters.”

McFadden headed for Fort Sill, Okla. to train as a spotter pilot. Later, his outfit was sent to Attu, Alaska, but artillery spotters weren’t needed there so he transferred to the Army Air Forces to train as a pathfinder. Eventually, he wound up in the 3rd Air Commando Group flying C-46 transports. His first post overseas was an airfield on Biak Island, off the coast of New Guinea.

Later, he switched to C-47 transports and followed the U.S. invasion of the Philippines, from Leyte in the south to the northern tip of Luzon.



**George shows a gunsight he liberated from a Japanese Zero shortly after Japan surrendered in 1945.**

“My toughest missions were the parachute drops in the Philippines,” he said.

“We had to fly down between the mountains and often had to fly the pattern twice to drop the entire load. Of course, the Japs were shooting at us while we were doing this.”

At war’s end, McFadden landed in Japan four days before Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived. Later, he flew the Catholic Church’s Francis Cardinal Spellman on a tour of Japan. Spellman was the church’s military vicar.

“I took him to Hiroshima,” McFadden said.

“There was nothing but desolation. It was flat for miles.”

He also flew some of the Allied prisoners of war from their camps on Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost island. But by early 1946 his time on active duty ended.

He returned to Wheeling and became active in the Air Force Reserve at Pittsburgh, Pa. He also married Mary Lou, his wife for 60 1/2 years until she passed away last June. Together, they raised four children.

George remained in the Air Force Reserve until the mid-1960s. He was never called back on active duty. That gave him time to turn to real estate and development.

“I got interested in real estate by selling cemetery plots in Beaver Falls, Pa.,” he said. He and his family moved to Charleston in 1968 after he helped build the Charleston Medical Center.

“I retired in the mid-1980s,” he said, after serving on the board of directors of the Charleston Board of Realtors. He is also a member of the Reserve Officers Association, the Elks and the Disabled American Veterans, and MOAA, for the last 10 years.



**Mary Lou and retired Air Force Captain George McFadden at their home on James Island. Mary Lou passed away in June 2007.**

## **Charleston Chapter wins third MOAA Five Star Level Award of Excellence**

For the fourth year in a row, your chapter has been selected to receive MOAA National's Award of Excellence.

We started out by winning the Four Star Award, and followed that up by winning the Five Star Award three years in a row.

This is no small feat. There are a number of requirements that must be met, and your chapter has done it. So, congratulations to all of our members on this great achievement.

## **Charleston Chapter Website recognized by National MOAA**

Your Chapter's Website has been selected as the 1st Runner-Up, Websites, Category 1, for 2006. Good communication is a hallmark of an effective chapter, and that is why National has recognized our Website.

If you haven't been there, log on at [www.chasmoaa.org](http://www.chasmoaa.org) and take a good look at it. We are sure that you will be pleased.



### **We 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.**

**Call and submit your name.**

**The Chapter needs you.**

**Note!**

**Auxiliary Members are eligible for this position!**



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## Nominations are now being accepted for Lahm Award

The Robert J. Lahm Award was established to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Lahm, who served as Chapter Secretary from January 1997 to April 2003. Lt Col Lahm made many significant contributions to both the community and to this Chapter. The Award recognizes the efforts of an individual in providing outstanding service to the Charleston community and Charleston Chapter MOAA

**Nominations:** Any chapter member (including Honorary) making a significant contribution to this Chapter and/or the Charleston Trident Community is eligible. Any chapter member may nominate a member of the Charleston MOAA Chapter for this award. Eligibility will be considered for non-members, on a case-by-case basis, who have clearly demonstrated outstanding service regarding the purpose of this chapter.

**Submission:** Nominations are to be submitted to the Chapter President not later than 31 October 2007. Mail it to LT Cliff Abbey, 100 Cheshire Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445-7128

Recipient's name will be added to a permanent trophy.

Award will be presented at the November member function at Red's Ice House.

Restrictions:

- (a) Sitting Chapter President is not eligible.
- (b) Normal duties of office performed by Board members are not deemed significant contributions and thus are not eligible for this award

## First Annual South Carolina MOAA Golf Tournament and Dinner

Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at Fort Jackson Golf Course

Check in time—11.00; Shotgun Start-Noon; Social Hour: 5:00; Dinner/awards 6:00; Casual Attire

Team competition - Captain's Choice. Four man teams will be formed and evenly balanced based on submitted handicaps.

LADIES AND GUESTS WELCOME.

Prizes will be awarded to first five teams , closest to the pin on all par three holes. Door prizes: enough to make it fun and enjoyable.

Entry Deadline - NLT COB Friday, October 26th.

- - - - Registration (Tear Off) - - - Submit to: South Carolina MOAA, C/O tournament Director Terry Brown, 129 Mallard Landing Way, Columbia, SC 29209 (or call Terry Brown 803-776-7083 or Dave Fonner 803-808-1724)

|          |                   |         |
|----------|-------------------|---------|
| NAME (1) | Handicap/phone    | Chapter |
| Name (2) | Handicap/phone    | Chapter |
| Name(s)  | Dinner Only/phone | Chapter |

**COSTS:** Golf Entry Fee -\$50.00 Includes Greens Fee, cart, two mulligan and dinner

Dinner attendees only -\$12.00

### Family First Medical Care, L.L.C.



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**Customer before Company  
Employee before Owner  
Service above All**



## President's Pen

At our September Board of Directors meeting we discussed poor overall attendance at chapter functions and the lack of members willing to fill vacant board positions. Our chapter has 524 paid members yet we have not had anyone step forward and agree to serve as 1st Vice-President or as Editor. From this large group of known leaders I am certain there are many qualified members capable of serving in both of these positions.

We also have a problem with members who fail to pay their \$10.00 annual dues. Dues and income from newsletter advertisements are the principal income sources for the Chapter. We need your participation as board members and to attend our functions.

We do not want to lose you so please remain active and get involved in our events.

This year due to numerous complaints about the quality of food and the costs of events held at the Charleston Club I have tried several different ideas for events most of which have been held somewhere besides the Charleston Club. I will entertain all suggestions for location and/or type of event so give me some feedback.

Last month the luncheon at Carrabba's was a great success. The wine tasting at the Irvin Vineyards on Johns Island was also a great success. The BOD voted unanimously for this tea plantation tour and I think you will thoroughly enjoy it as well. Two weeks ago Libby and I visited the tea plantation and enjoyed a truly delightful day.

As for the events, I for one really look forward to them. It is nice to meet with friends and comrades and enjoy swapping stories about our service adventures. Please try to support us by keeping your dues current, attending our events and consider volunteering for one of our vacant board positions.

## TOYS FOR TOTS

Again this year, the chapter is planning to participate in this worthwhile program.

You can help, by contributing to the program. Last year, we raised over \$500 for Toys for Tots, and we hope that we can do it again. Just send a check to the chapter, at

Charleston Chapter, MOAA  
PO Box 70421  
Charleston, SC 29415-0421

You can also help by dropping a few bucks into the Toys for Tots jar at each Chapter function.

We have raised \$410.00 so far this year, and we need your help to get over the top again. We thank you, and the kids will thank you and so will the Corps.



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## 2007-2008 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                               |  |          |                         |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|-------------------------|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b>              | LT Clifton R. Abbey, USN   | 764-2448 | abbeycr@bellsouth.net   |
| <b>1st VP PROGRAMS</b>        | VACANT   |          |                         |
| <b>2nd VP MEMBERSHIP</b>      | COL Allan T. Smith, USAF   | 572-2011 | alandmarty@comcast.net  |
| <b>SECRETARY</b>              | COL Clinton L. Noren, USAF                                       | 552-7579 | cnoren@earthlink.net    |
| <b>TREASURER</b>              | LTCOL. Ed Knowles, USAF  | 553-5299 | r66837.comcast.net      |
| <b>DIR. HOSPITALITY</b>       | MRS. Virginia P. CHINNES, AUX (thru 2007)                        | 572-8761 |                         |
| <b>DIR AWARDS</b>             | MAJOR John F. Griffin, USAF                                      | 767-8765 | papgriffin@yahoo.com    |
| <b>ASST DIR AWARDS</b>        | COL Steve A. Rowe, USA   | 303-7438 | srowe@prucar.com        |
| <b>DIR PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>   | CAPT Roy Corderman, USN  | 571-5061 |                         |
| <b>DIR. LEGISLATIVE</b>       | CDR John E. Nolan, USN (thru 2007)                               | 821-5767 | sandlappers@sc.rr.com.  |
| <b>DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY</b> | MAJOR Terry Joyce, USAF (thru 2007)                              | 871-6360 | wjoyce@prodigy.net      |
| <b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>         | COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller, USA                                   | 821-0169 | ButchFuller@aol.com     |
|                               | <b>REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)</b> |          |                         |
| <b>EDITOR</b>                 | COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller  | 821-0169 | ButchFuller@aol.com     |
| <b>CHAPLAIN</b>               | CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN   | 553-9581 | capthenryl@comcast.net  |
| <b>DIR. SCHOLARSHIP</b>       | COL Rudy Smart, USAF   | 824-1263 | rudy@thesmartsplace.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.

**Photos from the luncheon at Carraba's**



CDR John Pucciarelli, Commanding Officer of the Charleston Naval Consolidated Brig speaks to the Charleston MOAA at the August luncheon at Carraba's



Harry Kluttz, Al and Jimmy Dovre enjoying the activities at Carraba's Restaurant in August



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**Jan Freeman, CRS, GRI**  
Broker  
Exec. Life Member, CTAOR

**Chapter to visit VA Hospital in November**

Mark your calendars for our next visit to the VA Hospital in Charleston, which will be on Wednesday November 7th. This is the 4th visit that has been arranged by Terry Joyce. It is really nice to talk to the Veterans and to learn of their experiences. We meet at the Charleston Club at 9:15 AM, and then carpool to the hospital. Join us. Normally, we bring along shaving and toothpaste items to give to the Vets. For more information, call Terry at 871-6360.

**Remember, it is Veterans day on November 11th. Fly your flag\_**

**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 Director of Scholarship, 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.**

**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: 102**  
**Honorary Members: 37**

## 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 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

## Dues Questions

Questions concerning your status should be directed to:  
Al Smith, Membership VP.

(843) 572-2011



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## REST IN PEACE

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**LT COL Gerald Vaughan, USAF**  
**5 September 2007**  
Survived by wife Sandra

**CAPT Ronald N. Johnson, USN**  
**7 September 2007**  
Survived By Spouse Nina

**Lt Col Bertram Crooks, USA, Ret**  
**9 September 2007**

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

**John Common, DMD, MS**  
**CDR, DC, USN, Retired**  
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**Summerville, SC, 29483**  
**Phone (843)-871-6636**



Rudy Smart and Dot Verdugo enjoy the activities at the luncheon at Car-raba's in August.

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