



PMOAA BEACON

Home of the Blue Angels - Pensacola, FL
A 5 Star Chapter 2003 - 2019, 2021 - 2024

Printed Newsletter Award -
2008, 2010, 2011, 2019 - 2024

Website Winner -
2010, 2011, 2012, 2018 - 2024

<https://pmoaa.org>

May 2025



President's Corner

Thank you for being a member of MOAA's Pensacola Chapter. Your support is crucial to the survival and flourishing of PMOAA as an advocate for maintaining our earned benefits and those of current active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coasties and guardians. Not to mention the work we do locally in support of the JROTC units in 7 different high schools and two local ROTC units. Our scholarship program supports 4-6 college students each year with \$3000 awards. We are blessed and thankful for the support our members provide to do all of this good work. Please bring a retired friend who may enjoy our programs, camaraderie, and service opportunities. Thank you!!

The month of May is going to be very busy, so please check out the "schedule of events" at the end of my letter. Please try to support/attend as many of these events as possible.

The "main event" is our May 15 luncheon meeting at The Oaks aboard NAS Pensacola at the A.C. Read Golf Course. We will meet from 1100-1300 on the second floor. The menu is listed elsewhere in the Beacon. Our guest speaker is one of our own, Col Gib Ahl, USAF (Ret) who will share his experience as a F-100 Super Sabre pilot flying highly classified missions, code-named "Misty," in North Vietnam in 1969-70. Gib will no doubt have some great stories to tell, some may even be true!

I must also comment on the superb evening we had at PYC on April 17. The Prime Rib and Pecan Crusted Grouper were fabulous and followed by a very interesting program by Shea McLean from the USS Alabama Battleship Park Museum in



USS Hunley recovery



Mobile, AL. He spoke about the recovery of the Civil War era Confederate submarine, USS Hunley, from Mobile Bay about 30 years ago, of which he

was a lead researcher. He had us all totally engaged with the history and significance of the Hunley's development and wartime exploits.

Here is the "Schedule of Events" through June:

- **May 9-11** Pensacola Navy Days. Go to pensacolanavydays.com for details on events.
- **May 15** PMOAA monthly meeting, 1100-1300 at The Oaks aboard NAS Pensacola. Speaker will be Col Gib Ahl, USAF (Ret).
- **May 15** "Our Community Salutes" Pensacola's 2025 High School Enlistees at UWF Conference Center, Bldg 82, 11000 University Pkwy. Doors open at 6:00 pm, program begins at 7:00 pm. Go to <https://community.ocsusa.org/pensacola/> for more information and the register and volunteer to help with the event.
- **May 26** is Memorial Day and will be celebrated at Barrancas starting at 9 AM. It will be held at the main pavilion next to the Admin building. The CO NASP will be the guest speaker. Further details: <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/Barrancas.asp>
- **June 12** PMOAA Annual Picnic at The Oaks aboard NAS Pensacola starting at 1730. NO SPEAKER! Just a good time with friends and great BBQ Chicken, burgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings and some great desserts.
- **June 19** PMOAA, Baldwin County and Mobile MOAA Chapters will have a joint meeting in Daphne, AL from 1130-1330. This is the second time we have been invited to meet with them. In 2023 we had about 20 of our members attend and it was a fun, friendly meeting. I highly recommend you put this on your calendar.

Please read the minutes of our April 22 Board meeting. We made a number of significant decisions, including how we want to support our JROTC units going forward.

Enjoy your days and be especially mindful on Memorial Day. God Bless America and those who served including spouses, children and family.

Your President, Ken Pyle



(Photos this page are courtesy of Charley Booton)



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

There is an old saying that nothing is certain except for death and taxes. As many sayings like this, the author was Ben Franklin. This is the full quote, from a letter Benjamin Franklin wrote in 1789 to Jean-Baptiste Le Roy – a French fellow tech guru and scientist of the time: “Our new Constitution is now established and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” Of course, old Ben wasn’t talking about our federal income tax as that wasn’t started until 1913 when it was authorized by the 16th amendment. A timely article in this update concerns planning for next year’s tax bill. As I still work and collect a variety of other income, this is always important for me. Last year I used the IRS online withholding calculator that after entering all the data said I was having too much withheld for my 2024 tax bill. I knew this was incorrect (I was a CPA before entering the Navy) and did my own calculations which revealed that I would probably owe much more when I filed my taxes. I increased my withholding accordingly and a couple of weeks ago when I filed my taxes owed about \$200. If I had followed the IRS guidelines I would have had to pay a lot more, had interest and penalties for under withholding and quarterly tax payments in 2025.

We have a new Senator in Florida, Ashley Moody, appointed by the Governor to replace Marco Rubio who became Secretary of State. I have already received responses from her for my legislative action submissions. In addition, in the First District Jimmy Patronis was elected in a special election and is now representing that district. I have not made a submission to him but when I do, I am sure that he will respond. All of you can support those efforts by being part of the action. A way to do that is to sign up for the MOAA legislative alerts visit https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/.

To help you stay informed about issues, please consider subscribing to the MOAA Newsletter which is sent out two to four times per month on Thursdays via email. You can sign up for the newsletter at www.moaa.org. Please let me know how you think I can make this column better for you by sending an email to me at p3dave@yahoo.com.

Also, if you are not aware, the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) publishes a newsletter every other month. It can be viewed here at <https://flmoaa.org/news/>

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please use some or all of the links available within this Legislative Affairs column and subscribe to the automatic notifications I mentioned above. The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, FCoC at flmoaa.org and an affiliate of the [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](http://MilitaryOfficersAssociationofAmerica.org) who together are the nation’s largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. MOAA has several critical legislative issues they are championing. Become an advocate and **Take Action NOW!** at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

In this issue:

- Defense Officials Considering Cuts to Military Treatment Facilities
- What Budget Constraints Could Mean to Your Military Benefits
- MOAAs Mission Continues: Advocacy in Action 2025 Still Needs Your Support
- Why Now is the Perfect Time to Kick Off for Next Years Taxes

Defense Officials Considering Cuts to Military Treatment Facilities

(This article by Karen Jowers originally appeared in Military Times.)

Defense Health Agency officials are examining [military treatment facilities](#) across the military medical system, facility by facility, to determine their fate — which could include closing some facilities or downgrading some hospitals to clinics.

The process is in the “pre-decisional” stage, said DHA officials, speaking during a panel discussion at the Association of Defense Communities National Summit in Arlington, Virginia, on Monday. “We have to match our resources against the mission set that we have,” said Dr. Michael Malanoski, DHA’s deputy director.

“There will be some changes in services across the system,” he said. The process of evaluating the military treatment facilities started “many, many moons ago,” he added.

No decisions have been made yet at DHA, according to Rear Adm. Matthew Case, acting assistant director for health care administration at DHA. Any changes would have to be approved by Defense Department leadership, and Congress would have to be notified by law.

The issue is resources, Case and Malanoski said. The [priority is readiness](#), especially at the largest facilities, where staff provide combat casualty care support, Case said. Those facilities, such as Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, must be ready to receive casualties, he said.

The Defense Health Agency has been fighting to keep its military treatment facilities staffed in recent years, as a [shortage of medical personnel](#) has affected facilities nationwide.

At the same time, officials are evaluating the situation in communities around military installations, recognizing there are locations in “medical deserts,” where not enough care is available in the civilian community for military beneficiaries.

“So we have to go ‘rack and stack’ of what the capabilities are,” Case said.

A rigorous analysis “facility by facility, location by location” is underway, Case said.

“We’re looking at not only is there an adequate Tricare network, but how [civilian medical facilities] are doing on Leapfrog scores,” he said. Those scores, compiled by a national nonprofit organization, collect and evaluate medical facilities’ information about quality and safety.

“Where are our patients going? What are the scores in those facilities? Are those facilities doing better than we are?” Case said.

At Monday’s panel discussion, a member of the Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, community asked about the status of the study, saying the community is concerned about the future of its military hospital because it is in a medical desert.

“When is this going to happen, and what should we be doing to provide input to you?” he asked panelists.

Senators Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and Robert Marshall, R-Kansas, have written to DHA officials demanding answers to whether the medical facilities at Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Fort Riley, Kansas, were being considered for downgrades.

Although Case said he couldn’t speak specifically to Fort Leonard Wood’s military treatment facility, he said, “You have a beautiful, relatively new facility, but being able to man that properly is a challenge for us.”

Meanwhile, the military medical system has been working to attract patients back to military treatment facilities after forcing many military beneficiaries to seek outside care in the private sector. That push is being driven by both costs and medical readiness. DOD’s overall health care costs have risen as patients have migrated to the civilian sector. That decline in patients has also spurred the military services to seek more private-sector training opportunities to keep their medical staff’s clinical skills current.

What Budget Constraints Could Mean for Your Earned Benefits

(This article by Brenden McMahon originally appeared in the April 17, 2025, MOAA Newsletter.)

MOAA representatives discussed ongoing concerns in key areas during a recent meeting with professional staff from both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, part of our work to protect service-earned benefits in the face of budget constraints and a compressed congressional calendar.

The talks covered four key areas: [unaccompanied housing](#), [military spouse employment](#), military health system (MHS) [access to care](#), and veterans [exposed to toxins while in uniform](#). Professional staff on both committees characterized the year ahead as primarily defensive, with limited opportunity for advancing new legislative priorities.

They expressed the greatest openness to efforts reinforcing or improving existing policies — particularly in areas related to DoD health care. Other issues, such as unaccompanied housing and military spouse employment, were met with interest and constructive discussion, though committee staff acknowledged constraints that may limit broader legislative action this year.

Here’s a look at what was discussed in the March session, and how you can keep up with progress on these critical issues.

Unaccompanied Housing

MOAA and committee staff discussed the potential impacts of the [continuing resolution](#) on planned unaccompanied housing improvements. Committee staff acknowledged the issue but

noted that funding limitations and competing priorities may constrain options in the near term.

While broader legislative movement on this issue may prove challenging this year, it remains a critical area in need of oversight.

Military Spouse Employment

MOAA highlighted ongoing challenges facing military spouses in the federal workforce, including barriers related to licensure portability and other employment obstacles. Committee staff expressed support and encouraged continued focus on the issue, noting potential opportunities to push forward bills like the Resilient Employment and Authorization Determination to Increase the National Employment of Serving Spouses (READINESS) Act.

MOAA continues its work in support of the Military Spouse Hiring Act, which would award a tax credit to businesses hiring military spouses. However, because this bill would involve changes to the tax code, it would fall under a different committee jurisdiction.

Military Health System: Access to Care

Committee staffers encouraged MOAA to continue advocating for reliable MHS funding amid concerns that DoD is redirecting resources away from health care, impacting both readiness and the benefit itself by undercutting the direct care system.

Committee staff requested feedback on recent MHS stabilization testimony and other legislative proposals. MOAA was also asked to provide draft legislative language for a digital access assistance platform, which is one of our Tier 1 priorities, and help clarify how much was saved through the [TRICARE pharmacy network reductions](#).

Toxic Exposure

MOAA discussed recommendations from its [Ending the Wait initiative](#) and raised concerns about ongoing challenges to access service-earned care and benefits. Committee staff asked what specific problems remain unresolved and whether DoD is still failing to acknowledge certain exposure-related conditions.

MOAA and committee staff agreed it is critical to clearly identify what is still not working in these processes and what gaps may remain.

A Steady Voice

As Congress faces a compressed legislative calendar and ongoing budget uncertainty, MOAA remains committed to engaging with lawmakers and staff to advance practical, achievable improvements for the uniformed services and veteran communities. Even in a constrained environment, opportunities remain — and MOAA will continue to serve as a trusted voice, providing thoughtful policy recommendations and amplifying the concerns of those who serve and have served.

MOAA’s Mission Continues: Advocacy in Action 2025 Still Needs Your Support

(This article by Terry Waters originally appeared in the April 17th, 2025, MOAA Newsletter)

MOAA’s flagship advocacy event, [Advocacy in Action \(AiA\) 2025](#), wrapped up last week after delivering an impactful presence on Capitol Hill.

More than 150 MOAA volunteers came together in the halls of Congress on April 9 to advocate for the service-earned pay and benefits relied upon by uniformed servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families. In a single day, our team of dedicated advocates met with lawmakers from all 50 states, visited over 325 congressional offices, and contributed a combined 1,200 hours of face-to-face advocacy.

These impressive numbers underscore one thing: When MOAA speaks, Congress listens. But our work doesn’t stop here.

Our strength lies in our 350,000 members – and their families – across the country. Grassroots advocacy is key to the success of our message. Every voice matters, and yours can help reinforce the priorities delivered in person during Advocacy in Action.

Constituent messages sent directly after meetings with lawmakers help amplify our concerns and keep our issues front and center throughout the legislative cycle.

How You Can Help: Sign Up for MOAA’s Legislative Action Center

One of the most effective ways to support MOAA’s advocacy is by using our [Legislative Action Center](#). This free, easy-to-use platform empowers you to:

- Stay informed on the latest legislative priorities and actions affecting the uniformed services and veteran communities.
- Easily send messages to your lawmakers — personalized with your story — about the advocacy issues that matter most.

Track your outreach and see how your efforts contribute to broader campaigns.

It only takes a minute to get started, but the effect of your engagement can last far longer. [Sign up today](#) and help us turn in-person momentum into real legislative progress – join thousands of your fellow members by visiting the Legislative Action Center and making your voice heard.

Why Now Is the Perfect Time to Kick Off Next Year’s Taxes

(This article by Lila Quintiliani originally appeared in the April 2024 Military Officer Magazine and was updated as of April 11th, 2025.)

Each spring, many people breathe a sigh of relief when they finish gathering documents and filing their federal income tax return. But after a brief pause, it’s time to head back to the computer — while your tax return is fresh in your mind, do the following:

Understand Your Return

Many people only take notice of two things on their Form 1040: If they have a refund (line 34) or if they owe tax (line 37). But there’s a bit more to it than that.

If you have a large refund, that means you overpaid your taxes — giving Uncle Sam an interest-free loan — and you should think about withholding less in taxes for next year.

If you owe a lot in taxes, you might be subject to a penalty, and you should consider withholding more in taxes. If you owe too

much when you file your return, the IRS will require you to make quarterly tax payments for the next tax year.

Another item to note is your adjusted gross income, or AGI (line 11). This amount helps determine the deductions and credits for which you are eligible.

For example, you might not be eligible to contribute to a Roth individual retirement account (IRA), to deduct contributions to a traditional IRA, or take advantage of education credits if your AGI is too high.

Tax moves that lower your AGI can help mitigate getting an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount added to your Medicare Part B premium.

Adjust Withholding

The IRS has a [Tax Withholding Estimator](#) that can help you figure out how much tax you want your employer to withhold from your pay. Retirees can also use the calculator to enter pension income or Social Security benefits and then receive an estimate of their projected tax liability and withholding.

If you decide to change your withholding, fill out IRS Form W-4, [Employee’s Withholding Certificate](#), and give it to your employer. To withhold tax on your Social Security benefits, submit [IRS Form W-4V](#) to the Social Security Administration; learn more [at this link](#).

Military retirees can submit their W-4 to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service by mail or fax or by using their myPay online account. Annuitants use a W-4P form; [get details here](#).

Retirees who have the Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center as their pay agency can change their tax information via Direct Access or by emailing their W-4 to ppc-dg-customer@uscg.mil.

It’s tempting to file away your return and put it out of mind but taking a few moments to review your tax return submitted this year can prepare you better for next year.



Note: While doing my taxes I had to make a lot of calculations and thought this was pretty funny!

Compiled and Edited by
Captain Dave Mitchell, USN (Ret)

(HINT: The two bands shown are ABBA and KISS)

The Surviving Spouse Assistance Committee Corner

The death of a spouse can be a very stressful event. Every person handles grief differently but having your estate documents up to date and providing your spouse with a list and location of your financial data can really help when this does happen.

Following is a list of MOAA books that can help as you work through the process:

Planning the Estate from MOAA.org:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/search-results/?keyword=Benefits%20Planning%20Guide>

Financial Challenges faced by the Older Surviving Spouse or Partner:

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/data-research/research-reports/data-spotlight-financial-challenges-faced-by-recently-widowed-older-adults/full-report/>

MOAA Surviving Spouse Resources:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-resources/>

Considering a pet? Below is a link from MOAA.org that might help:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-benefits-of-pet-adoption/>

A great big welcome to our latest committee member, Carol Olson.

Submitted by Judy Dickson, Chair
Karen Vinson-VanHouter, Karin Wiseman, Bill Mayer and Carol Olson
Surviving Spouse Assistance Committee

Link to PMOAA Digital Asset & Quicklist files on our website: <https://pmoaa.org/Surviving-Spouse-Assistance>



PMOAA BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING April 22, 2025

The April Board of Director’s meeting at the Pensacola Yacht Club was called to order at 1603 by President Ken Pyle. Board members present were: RADM Joan Engel, CAPT Sue Varenholt, LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter, LtCol Bob Nelson, CDR Susan Ulloa, MAJ Molly Werner, Maj Charley Booton, CPT Dean Kirschner, Surviving Spouse Chair Mrs. Judy Dickson, and Beacon Editor Jean Booton. Excused member was CAPT Meredith Yeager.

President Pyle announced that the PMOAA Chapter has once again received 5-Star Award recognition for the MOAA Levels of Excellence Awards and the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Award for outstanding website and monthly newsletter. He extended his utmost gratitude and congratulations to webmaster LtCol Bob Nelson and Beacon editor Mrs. Jean Booton for their tireless devotion to the Chapter and dedication to exceptional output, as well as to the members who make the Chapter shine through participation, scholarship donation, and community endeavors.

January 2025 BOD Minutes – CDR Ulloa took note of one correction required to the March Minutes after which LtCol Nelson moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Maj Booton and the members present approved.

Treasurer Report – LtCol Nelson reported the balances of the bank accounts as: Total Bank Accounts - \$21,700.68; Total Assets Accounts - \$96,225.06. He noted that the Grant Funds awarded last year by MOAA had all been dispersed to Veterans Treatment Court participants leaving a zero balance as the grant term ends. The grant will not be renewed for the next year. CAPT Varenholt motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dickson and the Board concurred.

REPORTS

1st Vice President – The speaker line-up for the general membership meetings is set through December 2025. Recommendations were proffered for speakers to start the 2026 meeting year. LTC Vinson-VanHouter will contact the proposed speakers as soon as the meeting dates and venues are set for next year.

2nd Vice President Membership – Over the past month, Board members made attempts to contact all members on the “lapsed” list regarding their intentions for maintaining membership. Some attempts at contact were unsuccessful. A few members did indicate they would renew, while many others declined. In addition, CDR (R) Joe Brewer, USN, passed away on April 11. As a result, active membership has decreased to 131 this month. It is never too late to renew or re-join PMOAA. Renewal forms are available in the Beacon and on the PMOAA website. MAJ Werner identified 37 local members of MOAA in MOAA’s NRT (Near Real Time) database who are not members of PMOAA. Board members were asked to assist MAJ Werner in connecting with these individuals, inviting them to join the local Chapter. MAJ Werner and LtCol Nelson will determine how often the NRT list should be updated.

Survivor Assistance – Mrs. Dickson provided recommendations received from SS members on issues important to them. The first was a request that the group be notified through a blast email when a PMOAA member or spouse succumbs. LtCol Nelson agreed that this was feasible and requested that Mrs. Dickson provide a sample notification, which she will do. The second recommendation was to provide a workshop for couples to plan together in preparation for either one’s death. It was noted that a past guest speaker provides this service in the community and holds a series of workshops throughout the year at both UWF’s Adult Learning Center and at the Bayview Senior Center. Mrs. Dickson will convey this information to her group. On another topic, Mrs. Dickson requested approval to work with her group on organizing a military themed cookbook featuring collections of recipes accumulated from overseas and stateside duty stations. Mrs. Dickson provided several examples with spiral binding as well as a total cost estimate based on the number of books ordered. The cover would reflect PMOAA and the Pensacola community and would be available for purchase by the membership as a fundraising effort (perhaps to assist the JROTC units). A motion was made by Maj Booton to approve the project and it was seconded by LtCol Nelson. The Board concurred. To conclude, Mrs. Dickson announced that Surviving Spouse and recently widowed Carol Olson has volunteered to join the Surviving Spouse Committee.

Scholarship Committee – Maj Booton reported that he is in receipt of only one scholarship application but believes that at least one more may be enroute. The application deadline of April 25 is quickly approaching. He verified that scholarship announcements were advertised in both the Navarre Press and the Pensacola News Journal, and mentioned that he had heard from two prior scholarship recipients inquiring if they could apply again and reiterated that they could not per the program rules. The Scholarship award amount has been raised to \$3000 this year. Also, Maj Booton has tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. This will be his last year Chairing the Committee.

Beacon – The deadline for submission of items for the Beacon is end-of-day Friday, April 25.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Treatment Court – Graduation for the participants in the Veterans Treatment Court occurred April 15 with former Judge Gary Bergosh making remarks honoring the 6 graduates who successfully completed the rigid program. PMOAA was represented by the President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each graduate was presented with a \$100 gift certificate from Grant funds. The remaining participants in the program will each receive a \$50 gift certificate at the next scheduled court date in May. This will mark the final distribution of the \$2500 Grant monies awarded last year by MOAA.

Challenge Coin – CAPT Pyle presented a graphic and invoice for the estimated cost of the proposed PMOAA Challenge Coin to the Board members. The Challenge Coin will replace the plaque presented to guest speakers at the monthly meetings and was approved by a majority vote at the March Board meeting. The coin features the MOAA logo on one side with a smaller MOAA logo and the Blue Angels air borne on the reverse with the full Chapter name around the outer circle of the

coin. The initial cost for 50 coins was quoted at \$450 including the set-up fee. A motion was made by Judith Dickson to proceed with the purchase of the coins; it was seconded by Maj Booton and approved by all the Board members. Challenge Coins may become available for purchase in the future to the PMOAA Membership.

NRT Report – The Near-Real-Time Report is a MOAA generated database providing Chapter leaders with information about military members residing in the local area. The database can be customized to update and pull new information based on the Chapter’s unique needs. It is still in the testing stage to work out reported “bugs”. Progress on its benefits and overall effectiveness will be discussed at future Board meetings.

Our Community Salutes (OCS) Pensacola – This event recognizes new enlistees to the military and will be held on May 15 at 1900 at the UWF Conference Center, Bldg 82, 11000 University Parkway. All those attending must register by May 8. The POC for this event is Ryan Bauman, (703)727-4966.

April Membership Meeting Review – Board members who attended the April dinner meeting at PYC unanimously agreed that this meeting was one of the best gatherings of the year. Not only was the attendance the best in a long time, but the menu items were exceptionally well prepared and remarkably delicious, the service was beyond reproach, and the guest speaker, Mr. Shea McLean, Curator of the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, was riveting in his discussion of the efforts to raise the Civil War submersible, H. L. Hunley, partially constructed in Mobile Bay for the Confederate States, and in which he was personally involved during the salvage efforts after the vessel was found 30 years ago. President Pyle praised LTC Vinson-VanHouter for recommending and engaging this dynamic individual. He also acknowledged CPT Kirschner for coordinating an exceptional menu at an affordable cost to begin the evening’s events.

NEW BUSINESS

Honorary Life Membership (HLM) Committee – RADM Engel offered a proposal to disband the HLM Committee and suggested instead that the Board of Directors deliberate on a prospective candidate’s eligibility for lifetime membership, then conduct an official vote. Due to time constraints, the topic was tabled until the next Board meeting.

Surviving Spouse Status Discussion – A point was raised on whether we are diminishing our Surviving Spouse component by granting them membership status from the day following the death of the spouse rather than considering the membership date to be the day the military spouse joined the Chapter. The couple may have been members for 20-30 years, yet when the military spouse passes, the remaining spouse’s membership just begins on the official roster. Many military spouses contribute countless valuable volunteer hours to the Chapter throughout the couple’s tenure, and some continue to serve the Chapter after the spouse dies. It may appear that all the years a spouse contributes to the Chapter are then negated upon the loss of the military spouse. Also affected is eligibility for nomination as an Honorary Lifetime Member (HLM) since, at minimum, ten years of membership is a requirement for consideration. Thirty years of membership is thereby obliterated upon the death of the military spouse. Another

consideration is that only the military member from a couple is required to pay dues. Upon the death of a military spouse, the survivor obtains free membership for one year before being required to pay annual membership fees to remain a Surviving Spouse member. There may be little that can be changed officially since PMOAA’s tax-exempt status as a 501(c) (19) military organization allows for only 25% of its membership to be non-veterans, and that percentage must be reported every tax year. However, since HLM is a local Chapter initiative and not governed by MOAA, the Board of Directors may have some leeway to change eligibility requirements and count total years of the couple’s tenure for the surviving spouse’s benefit in some circumstances. This will be a topic for further discussion at subsequent meetings while RADM Engel reviews the Chapter By-laws as they relate to both HLM and Surviving Spouses. The bottom line is that our Surviving Spouses are a vital component of our membership and their contributions to the Chapter are immeasurable.

JROTC - CPT Kirschner commented that 5 of the 7 JROTC units have received their certificates and medals, completing this year’s programs. He has been in contact with the 2 Santa Rosa County schools whose responses remain pending. He expressed concern that lacking a Federal Department of Education, the JROTC programs throughout the State may not be funded in the future. PMOAA has traditionally provided donations to the JROTC units in the area but the small amount divided between 7 schools may not be enough to keep all the units viable. Discussion ensued on suggestions to increase the donation amount awarded to each unit. The PMOAA website provides three choices to members who wish to donate: 1) the Scholarship Fund, 2) JROTC, or 3) discretion of the Board. During a previous Board meeting, it was suggested to share the 50/50 raffle, typically allocated to the Scholarship Fund, with the JROTC units. It was noted that the Scholarship Program is well funded and continues to earn revenue despite multiple distributions to award recipients each year. But those funds cannot be utilized for anything other than scholarship awards. A proposal was made by President Pyle to apply the money collected from the 50/50 raffles to the JROTC donation funds instead of the Scholarship fund. LTC Vinson-VanHouter motioned to approve, which was seconded by CDR Ulloa. A second motion was made to reconfigure the website and limit the options to donate from three to one option only - JROTC, and, to add JROTC as an option for donations on the new member brochure, which is due to be updated soon, as well as on the renewal forms. Again, the move to approve was made and seconded by LTC Vinson-VanHouter and CDR Ulloa.

Navy Days – Although Navy Days began on Friday, April 18, there are still many activities ahead for the Pensacola and PMOAA community. Upcoming scheduled events include: a Golf Tournament hosted by A.C. Reed Golf Course aboard NAS May 9 at 0800, a Black Tie “Night at the Museum” Gala with dinner and cocktails 1830 May 9 at the Naval Aviation Museum, Navy Days 4K run/walk at 0800 May 10 from Plaza DeLuna looping around to Veterans Memorial Park, Navy Days Parade on May 10 at 1000 from Plaza DeLuna, Family Fun on May 10 beginning at 0900 to include a Kids Zone, food trucks, military vehicle displays, ROTC demos, a military/veterans fair, and tours of several USCG vessels May 9-11.

Membership Meetings - The next PMOAA membership meeting will be a luncheon at The Oaks Restaurant on NAS, Thursday May 15, 1100-1300 hours. The guest speaker will be PMOAA member Col Gib Ahl, USAF (R) on his Vietnam “Misty” pilot experiences.

In June, the membership meeting will be an evening “picnic” at the Oaks Restaurant on NAS, June 12, 1730-2000.

Joint Meeting – PMOAA will join Baldwin and Mobile County Chapters of MOAA, Thursday, June 19, 1130 hours in Daphne, Alabama. Precise information will be available in future newsletters.

Board Meeting – the next PMOAA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 13, 1600 at PYC.

The Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned at 1744 hours.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Susan E. Ulloa, Secretary**

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TAPS

CDR Joe Brewer USN (Ret)

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2025 PMOAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Most member meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month except for June, July, and December. Board meetings are held at 1600 on the Tuesday following the member meetings (some exceptions apply). Locations are subject to change (PYC is Pensacola Yacht Club; Mustin is Mustin Beach Club on NAS Pensacola; Oaks is The Oaks on NAS Pensacola).

MEMBER MEETINGS

BOARD MEETINGS

May 15 - Lunch	Oaks	May 13 PYC
June 12 - Picnic Dinner	Oaks	June 24 El Patron
June 19 – Joint with BC-MOAA, Mobile & PMOAA in Fairhope		
July 31 – Scholarship Banquet	PYC	July 29 El Patron
Aug 1- NO MEETING		Aug 26 El Patron
Sept 18 - Dinner	PYC	Sept 23 PYC
Oct 16 - Dinner	PYC	Oct 14 PYC
Nov 20 -Annual Biz Mtg	PYC	Nov 18 PYC
Dec 4 - Christmas Party	PYC	Dec 16 PYC

Menus and speakers TBD at a later date.

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**Editor’s Note**

**Both the May and June membership meetings are shown in this edition of the Beacon. I will be out of town from May 20 thru May 29. And then, I possibly have a further trip for anywhere from 5 to 7 days. Therefore, I wanted to make sure all members were made aware of both meetings to make sure they could RSVP on time. AND, the June Beacon will be late. Sorry! Take care!!!**

**Jean Booton, Beacon Editor**

## May Luncheon BUFFET

Thursday, 15 May 2025  
Social: 1100  
Lunch begins: 1130

### [Oaks Restaurant at AC Read Golf Course](#)

799-1313 Duncan Road  
NAS Pensacola  
(on the Second Floor)

Cost is \$32 per person

### Buffet Menu

Sliced Roast Beef

Mushroom Chardonnay Chicken

Garlic Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes

Roasted Vegetables

Strawberry Shortcake

Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

Cash bar available on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor

**Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, 11 May 2025 to**

LtCol Bob Nelson (Ret)

On line at [May Dinner RSVP](#)

Email: [rsvp@pmoaa.org](mailto:rsvp@pmoaa.org) or

Phone: 719.322.4130

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Col Gib Ahl, USAF (Ret.)**

No Exceptions. Meals are ordered based on accepted reservations. Phone/email/web reservations are considered committed. *US Mail reservations or payments not accepted.* **Web Reservations – Be sure you receive an email confirmation, otherwise your reservation was not recorded. If you didn’t RSVP, please do not attend.**

**Deadline for RSVP is: 5/11/2025**

**NAS Access Details:** DoD/Military ID card holders should enter the base as usual from either the Main Gate/Navy Blvd entrance or the Blue Angel Gate (West Gate)/ Blue Angel Parkway. Those without a Military/DoD ID **must** be escorted aboard the Base in the same vehicle with someone having a Military/DoD ID, retired or active. Escorts will be at the Main Gate/Navy Blvd entrance. All occupants **must** have some form of legal picture ID.

Note: If you need assistance getting on base, please click [NAS Access](#) (email) or contact Molly Werner at 850-292-9756 or Bob Nelson at 719.322.4130 (call or text).

## Col Gilbert “Gib” Ahl Speaker for May Luncheon

Colonel Gilbert “Gib” Ahl began his 28-year Air Force career in August 1959 as an Aviation Cadet through the Navigator training program during a 6 period when the selection requirement of two years of college was suspended, and only satisfactory Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) test scores were required. Although qualifying for pilot training, a devious recruiter convinced the naïve farm kid that entering Navigator training now was feasible with pilot training in one year. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt and received his Navigator Wings in September 1960 and assigned to Strategic Air Command at Dow AFB as a KC-97 Navigator. He spent the next 6 years accumulating 1400 hours flying time and attending college classes at night. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management in June 1966 from Southern New Hampshire University’s first 4 year graduating class.

He was accepted for Pilot training in class 68-E at Moody AFB and awarded his pilot wings February 1968. He was selected to fly his boyhood dream of the F-100 Fighter and was assigned to Luke AFB. The next assignment was to the 612<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS), 37<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) at Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam in October 1968. After completing the minimum 100 combat missions he volunteered and was accepted as a member of the elite Forward Air Control unit of Operation Commando Sabre, commonly known by the now famous call sign Misty. Captain Ahl completed 80 missions as a Misty Forward Air Controller (FAC) for a total of 230 missions and 551.4 hours of combat during his one year combat tour of duty in Vietnam.

A series of operational flying and staff assignments followed to include Operations Officer of the 493<sup>rd</sup> TFS at RAF Lakenheath, and conversion to the F-4D, assignment to MacDill AFB in the 61<sup>st</sup> TFS as an Instructor Pilot, assigned to the 314<sup>th</sup> AD Osan AB Korea as Chief of Operations Plans, back to MacDill as Operations Officer of the 63<sup>rd</sup> TFS and then 56<sup>th</sup> TFW Chief of Standardization and Evaluation and Chief Flight Examiner. In 1981 he was assigned to the United States Military Training Mission (USMTM), Riyadh Saudi Arabia as Air Force Section Deputy for Operations, followed by an assignment to United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Security Assistance Division. Colonel Ahl escaped CENTCOM after 2 years and was selected in 1984 as the 56<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Wing Deputy Commander for Resources after which he retired in June 1987.

Colonel Ahl has combined 4400 hours of accident and incident free flight time as a Navigator in the KC-97, C-130, and as a Pilot/Instructor in the F-100 and F-4. Decorations and awards include The Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with OLC, Air Medal with 10 OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Commendation Medal with OLC, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service, and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

Colonel Ahl is married to Dr. Alexandrine (Michele) Nash and resides in Cantonment, Florida. He has two sons Chad (28) and Nathan (25) from his marriage of 30 years to Maria who died in 2014 and two daughters Pegie and Beth from a former marriage.

**June Dinner Picnic BUFFET**  
**Thursday, 12 June 2025**

Social: 1730-1800

**Dinner begins: 1800**

**Oaks Restaurant at AC Read Golf Course**

799-1313 Duncan Road

NAS Pensacola

**(on the Second Floor)**

Cost is \$28 per person

**Buffet Menu**

BBQ Chicken

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

Hamburger Buns and Hot Dog Buns

Lettuce, tomato, pickle, condiments

Baked Beans

Apple Pie, Cherry Pie

Vanilla Ice Cream

Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

**Cash bar available on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor until 1830**

**Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, 8 June 2025 to**

LtCol Bob Nelson (Ret)

**On line at [June Dinner RSVP](#)**

Email: [rsvp@pmoaa.org](mailto:rsvp@pmoaa.org) or

Phone: 719.322.4130

No Speaker just good conversation!

No Exceptions. Meals are ordered based on accepted reservations. Phone/email/web reservations are considered committed. *US Mail reservations or payments not accepted.* **Web Reservations – Be sure you receive an email confirmation, otherwise your reservation was not recorded. If you didn’t RSVP, please do not attend.**

**Deadline for RSVP is: 6/8/2025**

**NAS Access Details:** DoD/Military ID card holders should enter the base as usual from either the Main Gate/Navy Blvd entrance or the Blue Angel Gate (West Gate)/ Blue Angel Parkway. Those without a Military/DoD ID **must** be escorted aboard the Base in the same vehicle with someone having a Military/DoD ID, retired or active. Escorts will be at the Main Gate/Navy Blvd entrance. All occupants **must** have some form of legal picture ID.

Note: If you need assistance getting on base, please click [NAS Access](#) (email) or contact Molly Werner at 850-292-9756 or Bob Nelson at 719.322.4130 (call or text).



**2025 PMOAA MEMBERSHIP  
SIGNUP / RENEWAL FORM**

(Please Print

Existing members – only information changes needed)



Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME: (Last) (First) (Middle)

RANK/SERVICE:

Circle:

Active Duty Retired Reserve Guard Former Surviving Spouse

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: (Home) (Cell)

EMAIL ADDRESS: (For Official Chapter Communications/Use)

Member of National MOAA: **Y / N**

My MOAA Number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Life member: **Y / N**

[ ] If not a member of MOAA National, please check here to receive a **FREE Basic MOAA** membership.

**Please check all PMOAA activities in which you, or your spouse, can assist:**

- |                                                        |                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Officer               | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Administrator         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Director              | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Recruiting         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survivor Assistance Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Beacon</b> Editor          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Finance            | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/ Advertising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROTC/JROTC Liaison            | <input type="checkbox"/> Program/Event Coordinator     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee         | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Affairs           |                                                        |

**PMOAA Membership Dues:**

\$30.00/year (E-Beacon)

\$42.00/year (Mailed Beacon)

**SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

**JROTC DONATION**

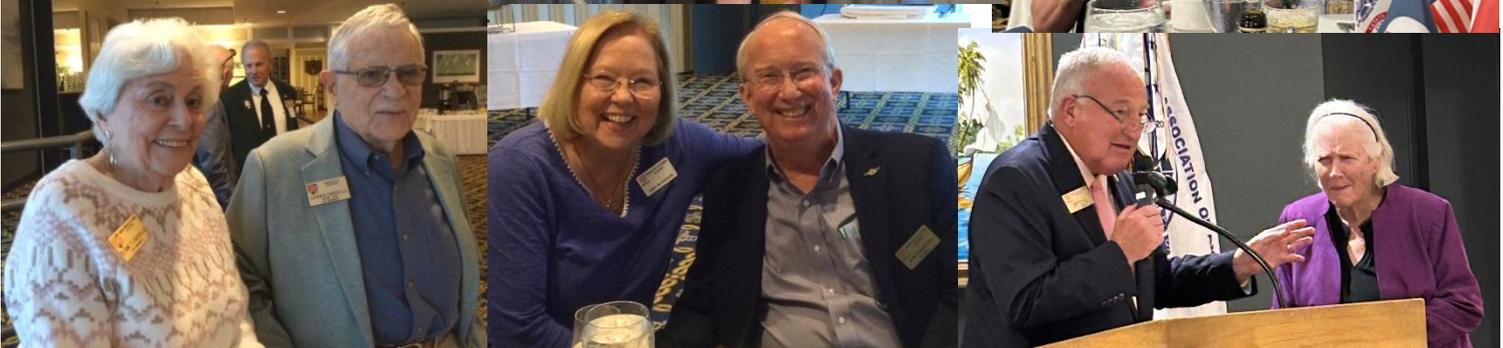
**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Make check payable to **PMOAA** and mail to:

**PMOAA Membership**

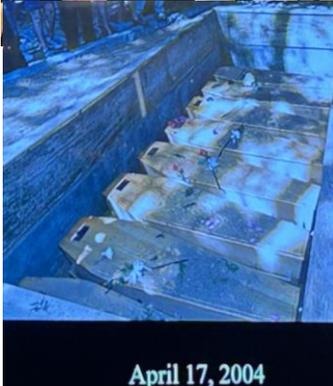
**P.O. Box 17728**

**Pensacola, FL 32501-7728**



Photos this page are courtesy of Christine Frazier and Charley Booton.

Below (from left) – USS Hunley victims are given a proper burial; Artist rendering of a crew member; Artifacts and dive gear used in recovery



## PMOAA Scholarship Update

We have received several application packages and we are in the process of evaluating them. The winners will be published in the July Beacon.

The Scholarship Banquet is Thursday, 31 July 2025, 5:30 pm, at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Please plan to attend and extend a warm "well done" to these future leaders. PMOAA will sponsor the student and one guest for the banquet...more guests are welcome at their own expense.

Remember, the Scholarship Raffle will be held that night as well. You should be receiving your raffle tickets in the mail any day now.

Respectfully,

**Maj Charles Booton, USAF (Ret)**  
**Scholarship Chairman**  
[Scholarships@PMOAA.org](mailto:Scholarships@PMOAA.org)



## SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept my/our gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the PMOAA Scholarship Fund.

This gift is being made in honor of, or in memory of:

Donor Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email

Please send an acknowledgement to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone

Mail your donation payable to:

**PMOAA, P.O. Box 17728 Pensacola, FL 32501**  
 Thank you for your support!

|                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>CAPT Kenneth Pyle USN (Ret) (2025-2027)                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1st Vice President</b><br>LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter USA (Ret) (2025-2027)         | <b>DIRECTORS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b><br>MAJ Molly C Werner USA (Ret) (2024-2026)                 | <b>Director</b><br>RADM Joan M Engel USN (Ret) (2024-2026)                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>Treasurer</b><br>LtCol Robert Nelson USMC (Ret) (2024-2026)                        | <b>Director</b><br>Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret) (2024-2026)                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b><br>CPT Dean Kirschner USA (Former)                    | <b>Director</b><br>CAPT Meredith Yeager USN (Ret) (2025-2027)                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Survivor Assistance Committee Chair</b><br>Mrs. Judy Dickson, Surviving Spouse     | <b>Director</b><br>Mrs. Judy Dickson (2025-2027)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Beacon Editor</b><br>Mrs. Jean Booton                                              | <b>Chair, Scholarship Committee</b><br>Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret)                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>For further information:</b><br><a href="mailto:Info@pmoaa.org">Info@pmoaa.org</a> | <b>Membership information at:</b><br><a href="mailto:Membership@pmoaa.org">Membership@pmoaa.org</a><br><b>Scholarship Information and mailing:</b><br><a href="mailto:Scholarships@pmoaa.org">Scholarships@pmoaa.org</a> |



**Pensacola Chapter, MOAA**  
**P.O. Box 17728**  
**Pensacola, Florida 32501-7728**

## **What's Inside:**

|             |                                           |              |                                                |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pg 1</b> | <b>President's Corner</b>                 | <b>Pg 7</b>  | <b>Editor's Note</b>                           |
| <b>Pg 2</b> | <b>Legislative Affairs</b>                | <b>Pg 8</b>  | <b>May Luncheon Meeting</b>                    |
| <b>Pg 3</b> | <b>Legislative Affairs (cont.)</b>        | <b>Pg 8</b>  | <b>May Speaker Bio – Col Gilbert “Gib” Ahl</b> |
| <b>Pg 4</b> | <b>Legislative Affairs (cont.)</b>        | <b>Pg 9</b>  | <b>June Picnic Dinner</b>                      |
| <b>Pg 5</b> | <b>Surviving Spouse Assistance Corner</b> | <b>Pg 9</b>  | <b>2025 Membership Sign-up / Renewal Form</b>  |
| <b>Pg 5</b> | <b>BOD Meeting Minutes</b>                | <b>Pg 10</b> | <b>Photos from April's Meeting</b>             |
| <b>Pg 6</b> | <b>BOD Meeting Minutes (cont.)</b>        | <b>Pg 11</b> | <b>PMOAA Scholarship Update</b>                |
| <b>Pg 7</b> | <b>BOD Meeting Minutes (cont.)</b>        | <b>Pg 11</b> | <b>Scholarship Donation Form</b>               |
| <b>Pg 7</b> | <b>TAPS</b>                               | <b>Pg 11</b> | <b>PMOAA Officers and Directors</b>            |
| <b>Pg 7</b> | <b>2025 Calendar of Events</b>            |              |                                                |