



General William Smallwood Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 554
Waldorf, MD 20604



The Smallwood Crier

Year 36 No. 1 January/February 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you enjoyed a safe holiday season and an enjoyable new year! We had some terrific guest speakers during the year, and we concluded 2009 on a fun note, celebrating with a Chinese gift exchange. The competition for some of the more popular gifts made this event very exciting. Minerva Ryan kindly entertained us, adding charm and warmth with her remarkable voice as she sang a selection of Christmas carols.



We also kicked off our "Profile" series, providing an opportunity for us to get to know better some of our fellow chapter members. George Reeder, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.) led the way as our first profile speaker.



We have a great program lined up for February 27th; this is an event you don't want to miss. Our guest speaker will be Col. Brian Deckert, BSC, Commander of the 779th Medical Group, Andrews AFB, MD. We met at the 2009 Retiree Day activities at Andrews, where he gave a most informative talk. It's an opportunity to hear first-hand about our regional health care situation. In addition to Col. Deckert, our own Tut Hendricks, Col., USA (Ret.) will be our second profile speaker. We will be developing more profiles of our WWII veterans, and then focus on those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam era. If you interested in having a profile done don't forget to sign up at the luncheon or contact me.

MOAA national is inviting us to participate in the 2010 GIVE ME 10 campaign. At the December 2009 MOAA Maryland Council meeting, chapter presidents discussed the need for new membership as a means to strengthen and broaden chapter activities. While we did do so in 2009, the challenge to invite at least 10 new members is well within our grasp.

Günter Finkenauer, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
President

MOAA Travel Contractor

John Cully, Col., USA (Ret.) spoke at the December Maryland Council meeting representing International Cruise and Excursions, Inc. ICE is the new contractor endorsed by MOAA national as of October 2009 as its travel provider. Today ICE handles 47 cruise lines, over 50,000 resorts and hotels, and has incentives for MOAA members. Under the existing program, points automatically awarded to regular and life MOAA members may be redeemed for savings of up to \$150 and \$300, respectively. A revenue-sharing program also provides for royalties paid to chapters as determined by bookings for cruises, resorts and other vacations. ICE products and services may be accessed at the MOAA web site travel section, or by calling 1-866-742-4462.

Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society contacted the MOAA Maryland Council to identify veterans in Maryland who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. The information they sent is as follows:

“The Distinguished Flying Cross Society is a non-profit organization whose members have been awarded the DFC as a result of deeds accomplished during aerial flight. The society’s aim is to publicize the meaning of the award and further the history and traditions of those awarded the decoration. The local Wilbur Wright Nation’s Capital Region Chapter meets at the College Park airport and is looking for other DFC recipients in the area.” Contact Roy Hodges, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.) at royhodges@comcast.net or by mail at 12609 Bright Valley Ct., Bowie, MD 20720.

Exemption of Military Retired Pay—Maryland Income Tax

Interested in the MD state tax legislation on your retired pay? The key bills to exempt military retired pay from Maryland State Income Tax are now before the legislature. They were scheduled for hearings before the responsible committees in both the Senate and the House of Delegates:

1. In the Senate, SB1 was heard by the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on Tuesday, 2 February. The Committee Chair is Senator Ulysses Currie of Prince George’s County.
2. In the House of Delegates, HB 1 was heard by the House Ways and Means Committee on Thursday, 4 February. The Committee Chair is Ms. Shelia Hixson of Montgomery County.

Chapter Notes

Chapter Membership Dues for 2010

If you have not already done so, it’s time to pay chapter dues for 2010. To avoid interruption to your membership status, please pay your dues by 27 February: \$15.00 for regular members and \$5.00 for associate members. **A red dot on your mailing label means your membership dues have not been paid for 2010.** Please send your check to General Smallwood Chapter, P.O. Box 554, Waldorf, MD 20604. You may also pay dues at the February 27th luncheon.

For your information, we currently have 74 members in our chapter. You can help us continue to grow by inviting eligible colleagues and friends to become members. The Board has waived the first year’s dues for new members. Please direct membership questions to Sandy Mitchell (301-934-8086).

Officers serving for calendar year 2010

President	Günter Finkenauer
First VP	Roy Hale
Second VP	Terry Briggs
Treasurer	Jim Goldsmith
Secretary	Polly Zimmerman

Director: Darlene Keller

Board of Directors

Stepping down this year from the Board is Ernie Wallace, CDR, USN (Ret.). He has supported our chapter as a Board member for seven years, and he is also a past chapter First Vice President. Ernie and his wife Carmen reside in La Plata, MD. We wish them well! Any chapter member interested in joining the Board of Directors contact Günter Finkenauer.



Chapter Committees:

The chapter has several standing committees that assist the officers and board in conducting its business. We are always looking for members to participate on a committee. Please contact Günter Finkenauer or any of the officers if you have any questions. Listed below are the standing committees:

- **Programs:** This committee secures guest speakers and entertainment for chapter events.
- **Personal Affairs:** This committee answers questions about benefits for members and spouses, and assists when a member passes away.
- **Legislative Affairs:** This committee keeps the membership up to date on legislation of interest to the group.
- **Special Projects:** This committee manages the aluminum recycling program, the JROTC programs, and Boys and Girls State programs.
- **Newsletter:** This committee writes and distributes the newsletter.

Chapter Luncheon Schedule for 2010

The following luncheon dates are planned for 2010:

- Feb 27
- Apr 17
- Jun 12 (cribbage)
- Sep 11
- Oct 23
- Dec11

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010

Cost: \$17.00

Place: VFW Post 8810
RT 925 (Old Washington Road)

Menu: Rotisserie chicken, mashed &
sweet potatoes, gravy, California Waldorf, MD
Medley vegetables, salad, rolls

Desert provided by Chapter members.

Time: 1130: Social hour
1200: Lunch
1245: Speakers

Speaker: Brian K. Deckert, Colonel, USAF, BSC
Deputy Commander
779th Medical Group

Please Note: We need to provide a count of luncheon attendees to our hosts at the VFW, so please confirm your reservations with Sandy Mitchell (mail the reservation form or call Sandy at 301-934-8086 to pay at the door)—THANK YOU!

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Reservation Form for Luncheon, February 27, 2010

Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Cost: \$17.00 per person

Mail check to: General Smallwood Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 554
Waldorf, MD 20604-0554

**Please mail this form or call Sandy Mitchell no later than February
15, 2010.**



MOAA

Military Officers Association *of* America

**GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 554
WALDORF, MD 20604-0554**

**DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER PROMPTLY**