



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



## The Smallwood Crier

Year 36 No. 2 March/April 2010

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring has arrived and we're already planning for our second luncheon in 2010! Our guest speaker during the February 27 luncheon was Colonel Brian Deckert, Deputy Commander, 779<sup>th</sup> Medical Group. We appreciate his informative remarks about the military health care system and history of the Malcolm Grow Medical Center. Colonel Deckert provisionally accepted an invitation to join the General Smallwood Chapter; we hope to see him again soon!

We also continued our speaker series of profiled WWII veterans, with Meredith E. "Tut" Hendricks, Colonel, USA (Ret.). Tut spoke about his experiences spanning WWII, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. A decorated veteran, he has been involved in several military associations, and his interests include music and farming.



In February, I represented our Chapter at the MOAA Maryland Council, whose membership comprises Maryland MOAA Chapter presidents and various Council officers. Members voted to make a \$200 donation to the Retired Veterans Association, and are considering holding a one-day, statewide convention. The Council asked if a Maryland Chapter would take the lead to organize this event. Also, Jim Coleman, president of the MOAA Annapolis chapter would welcome any donation in support of "Operation Welcome Home," where volunteers greet returning troops at airports and provide a variety of welcome gifts and refreshments. Jim may be reached via email at [elceemouser@msn.com](mailto:elceemouser@msn.com).

At the request of a large number of members, **the next luncheon has been changed to Saturday, 24 April—this is a change from 17 April.** Our guest speaker will be **Kenneth McCreedy, Colonel, USA (Ret.)** is the Executive Director of Partnership Technology Corporation, Inc., a non-profit company in La Plata, Maryland. Colonel McCreedy has a doctorate in American history from the University of California, Berkley, and is an adjunct professor on the faculty of the University of Maryland, University College, teaching courses in intelligence history and processes. He will speak to us about the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission decisions, which became law on November 9, 2005, and must be executed by September 2011. Also, Chapter member **Hal Watkins, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)** has agreed to be our next WWII veteran to speak as part of our profile series. Hal is a former bomber pilot and comptroller; you will be interested in hearing about his experiences.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the luncheon!

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

## **TRICARE and National Health Care**

Update: Rep. Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) introduced H.R.4887, late on Friday, March 19, to ensure TRICARE beneficiaries were unaffected by the National Health Care plan. The legislation approved by the House will maintain Department of Defense authority over military healthcare, and individual plans will be recognized as qualifying for tax exemptions under the new National Health Care system.

### **Tax Hint**

A reminder that a \$5000 tax deduction is available to military residents in Maryland; consult your tax advisor or the State Comptroller's office for details.

## **Chapter Notes**

### **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**

With Ernie Wallace having stepped down, the Board has a vacancy. Chapter members interested in joining the Board of Directors please 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:

- Apr 24
- Jun 12 (cribbage)
- Sep 11
- Oct 23
- Dec11

**Date:** Saturday, April 24, 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

Dessert provided by Chapter members

**Time:** 1130: Social hour

1200: Lunch

1245: Speakers

**Speakers:** Kenneth McCreedy, Col., USA (Ret.)  
Executive Director, PTIC

Hal Watkins, Col., USAF (Ret.)  
WWII Veteran

**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, April 24, 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 April 16,  
2010.**



# MOAA

Military Officers Association *of* America

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P.O. BOX 554  
WALDORF, MD 20604-0554**

**DATED MATERIAL  
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