



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



The Smallwood Crier

Year 35 No. 7 December 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the many sacrifices our military has made—both domestically and abroad. We have paused on various occasions throughout the year to remember those who have gone before us.



Our Chapter participated in the November 8 Veteran's Day parade in La Plata, MD. Our Chapter's First VP and Mayor Roy Hale (LT, USN Ret., above) presided over the events, and led the parade honoring all veterans, including our WWII generation—among them Meredith "TuT" Hendricks (COL, USA Ret.) and George Reeder (Lt Col, USAF Ret.), shown at left. We listened to keynote speaker Dennis Quick (CDR, USN) recount the meaning of Veteran's Day, and we watched a wreath laid in commemoration of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

During our October 31 Luncheon we had the privilege of listening to two rangers from the General Smallwood State Park. Ranger Patrick Bright (right in photo) explained some of the management challenges he faces in maintaining parklands. Ranger Stephen Youngkin (left in photo) provided biographical background on General William Smallwood (1732-1792), our Chapter's namesake, his family, and the influence he had during the colonial years. These talks were well received, and comments following the talks from Chapter members added other interesting facts.



The Andrews AFB Retiree Activities Office hosted this year's Retiree Day. As in years past, it was a great day to find out the latest on legislative affairs, medical care, space-A travel, and to receive assistance from the various stations set up by the Malcolm Grow Medical Center. I encourage everyone to attend this annual event next year. (See "Notes from AAFB Retiree Day")

Our luncheon calendar for 2010 has already been planned, and we are working to provide another year of exciting guest speakers. I look forward to seeing all of you on Saturday, December 12.

Happy Holidays!

Günter Finkenauer
 President



General Smallwood Chapter Notes

Program for the December 12 Luncheon

This year's holiday program will consist of some Chapter business; the first of our member profiles; Christmas carols led by Minerva Ryan, wife of member Bob Ryan (LCDR, USN Ret.); and our annual Chinese gift exchange.

General Smallwood Chapter luncheon calendar for 2010 (Mark you calendars!)

- Feb 20
- Apr 17
- Jun 12 (cribbage)
- Sep 11
- Oct 23
- Dec 11 (Dec 4 if luncheon conflicts with Army/Navy game)

COLA Update for 2010

As you may have already heard, based upon current economic data, there will not be a 2010 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay. Last year we benefited from the highest increase seen in over 15 years. Retired pay COLAs are designed to keep up with inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Notes from AAFB Retiree Day 2010

- Malcolm Grow Medical Center (MGMC)
 - Not closing as part of the BRAC
 - Feb 2010—In-patient care moving to Ft. Belvoir
 - Internal Medicine Clinic at capacity, no new patients
 - Family Health Clinic—taking TRICARE Plus patients (65+)
 - Bone density scan equipment has been ordered
 - “Life Screening” diagnostics (e.g., full-body scan)—not covered under TRICARE
 - Red Cross Volunteers sought—three days per week
- Space-A Travel
 - Sign up in person or on-line and stay in system for 60 days
 - Sign-up info may be sent to all bases to be visited
 - “Show-time” means the time travelers need to check in for travel
 - Per person: 2 bags, 70 lbs each (large plane); one bag of 20 lbs (small plane)
 - Many terminals have showers, ATMs, rental cars, child care facility, USO lounge
 - Retiree travelers can be bumped

Chapter Membership Dues for 2010

If you have not already done so, it's time to pay your 2010 Chapter dues. To avoid interruption to your membership status, please pay your dues by 30 January. Dues are \$15.00 for regular members and \$5.00 for associate members. Please send your check to General Smallwood Chapter, P.O. Box 554, Waldorf, MD 20604. We currently have 74 members in our Chapter and you can help us continue to grow by inviting eligible colleagues and friends to become members of our Chapter. The Board has waived the first year dues for new members. Direct your membership questions to Sandy Mitchell (301-934-8086).

Care Packages for the Troops

The collection of items for the troops resulted in some generous donations during our October 31 luncheon. Dan Donohue, Colonel, USMC (Ret.) whose son, James Donohue, LT, USA is currently serving in harm's way, packaged the donated items for shipment. Thank you for your generosity!

Officers serving for calendar years 2009–2010

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

Directors: Darlene Keller, Ernie Wallace

Chapter Committees:

The chapter has several standing committees that assist the officers and board in conducting Chapter business. We are always looking for members to participate on a committee. Please contact Günter Finkenauer or any of the Chapter 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.

Information for December 12 Luncheon:

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| Date: Saturday, December 12, 2009 | Cost: \$17.00 |
| Place: VFW Post 8810 | Menu: Turkey, stuffing, mashed and sweet potatoes, gravy, California Medley vegetables, cranberry sauce salad, rolls |
| RT 925 (Old Washington Road) Waldorf, MD | Dessert provided by the Smallwood Chapter members |
| Time: 1130: Social hour 1200: Lunch 1300: Holiday Fun | Activity: Chinese gift exchange |

Please Note: We need to provide a count of luncheon attendees to our hosts at the VFW no later than Saturday, 5 December, so please confirm your reservations with Sandy Mitchell (call Sandy at 301-934-8086 and/or reply with reservation form) at the soonest possible date before our deadline—THANK YOU!

Instructions for Chinese Gift Exchange

This is a fun event. If you want to participate, you may either bring a gift that ranges between \$10.00 and \$15.00, or bring something "nice" that you made (an item you no longer use or a gag gift).



Rules: Participants each place their wrapped gift on a table. In this game a "lottery" is used to decide when players take a turn to select a gift. The person with number "1" gets to choose and open a gift. The second person has the option of taking either the already opened gift or selecting a new one...and so on. Gifts are always unwrapped after being selected, but they are also subject to being "stolen" by subsequent players. Once a gift has moved a third time (stolen twice), it is "frozen" and cannot be taken again—it's yours to keep! The game continues until all gifts are gone.

The person with number "1" at the end of the game may, but doesn't need to, select from any gift not already frozen. Of course, anyone may voluntarily switch gifts with another player after the end of the game.

This game is a lot of fun, and you might go home with something you always wanted. We'll go over the rules again, and remember—participation is voluntary.



Reservation Form for Luncheon, December 12, 2009

Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Cost: \$17.00 per person

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



Please contact Sandy Mitchell with your reservation information at 301-934-8086 if the reservation form will not reach her by Saturday, December 5. Payment may be made at the door.

Please mail this form so it reaches Sandy no later than December 5, 2009.



MOAA

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

**DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER PROMPTLY**