



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



The Smallwood Crier

Year 38 No. 6 Nov/Dec 2011



A Five-Star Chapter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Battle Stations" Sounded from MOAA HQ

"On September 19, the Obama administration unveiled its plan to cut the deficit by \$3 trillion over the next 10 years. The plan includes \$27 billion in cuts to the military health care budget and a proposal that could cut even more from the military retirement system. First, the administration proposes establishing a \$200-per-person annual enrollment fee for TRICARE For Life beginning in FY 2013. The proposal would tie this to some unspecified health care cost index so it would increase every year after that.... Second, it proposes changing TRICARE pharmacy co-payments to bring them more in line with federal civilian coverage.... Finally, the administration calls for a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)-style commission to recommend 'modernizing' the retirement system....The language in the administration plan makes it clear the intent of these initiatives is to generate large savings by making the military health care and retirement systems more like civilian plans. This shows a shocking insensitivity to the radical differences between military and civilian careers and the reasons why these military programs were built....Now is the time for all MOAA members to mobilize. Please urge your officer friends to join MOAA and start actively working to protect their interests and those of the current and future force. This isn't just about equity. It's about an attack on the core elements that sustain the quality career force. Those who continue to sit on the sidelines jeopardize their and the military community's interests and the nation's future capability to sustain a strong national defense." *Military Officer*, November 2011, p. 31-32

VADM Norb Ryan, MOAA's President, states that "MOAA is not just our board of directors and staff; it's all of you. Our way of operating, combined with our membership numbers, is what makes us strong...However, what will take us to the next level in this fight--and it is a fight--will be you, answering the call to communicate with your elected representatives. Members of the congressional 'super committee' will be behind closed doors deciding the fate of the benefits you earned with your sacrifice and service. By its recent actions, we are not sure the administration gets it. We've given you the tools you need for your voice to be heard, and we need you to use them. Call, write, or visit the link below to urge your legislators to oppose these misguided initiatives." Please, take the time to visit www.moaa.org/protectmilitary to send a message to your legislators. *Military Officer*, November 2011, p. 12

Legislative Update

Over 3,400 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives this Congress. To give you a flavor for the range of legislation being proposed, here are some selected bills that have been sent to committees for action that are of interest to military retirees:

H.R.120, Disabled Veterans' Surviving Spouses Home Loans Act: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for eligibility for housing loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the surviving spouses of certain totally-disabled veterans

H.R.168, VA Care for Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of veterans with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

H.R.238, Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of 2011: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B.

H.R.544, Servicemen Mortgage Foreclosure Protection: A bill to amend the Service members Civil Relief Act to permanently extend the period of protections for service members against mortgage foreclosures, and for other purposes.

H.R.652, TRICARE Premium Limits: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit the increase of premiums, deductibles, copayments, or other charges for health care provided under the TRICARE program.

H.R.814, Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2011: A bill to provide Medicare payments to the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities for items and services provided to Medicare-eligible veterans for non-service-connected conditions.

H.R.1092: Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit certain increases in fees for military health care.

H.R.1285: Military Health Care Affordability Act: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit certain increases in fees for military health care before fiscal year 2014

H.R.1775: Stolen Valor Act of 2011: A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal offense relating to fraudulent claims about military service.

Chapter Notes

Army Band Concert at College of Southern Maryland

The 257th Army Band, "The Band of the Nation's Capital," presents a **free** concert, "An Evening of Holiday Classics," at CSM's La Plata campus at 7 p.m. on 3 December. Get into the holiday spirit with a fun evening of music, including a tuba and piccolo engaged in a musical snowball fight, a barbershop quartet version of the "12 Days of Christmas" Southern Maryland style, and a popular favorite of the concert, "A Yuletide Rhapsody." The band is especially desirous of getting military veterans and service members out to pay tribute to their dedication and sacrifice.

MOAA Scholarship Fund

Its that time of year when students begin applying for scholarships and financial aid. One of the great benefits of MOAA membership is the Scholarship Fund. Students

under age 24 who are children of former, active or retired officers or active or retired enlisted military personnel, are eligible to apply. Qualified students are selected on the basis of their scholastic ability, activities and financial need. 1,700 children received more than \$9.5 million in the form of grants or interest-free loans. Check out www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund for more information. You may also make donations to the scholarship fund -- information is at www.moaa.org/donatenow.

2011 General William Smallwood Chapter Calendar

December 3 Holiday Party

2012 General William Smallwood Chapter Calendar

January 18 Board of Directors
February 11 Luncheon
March 21 Board of Directors
April 14 Luncheon
May 16 Board of Directors
June 9 Annual Cribbage Tournament
August 15 Board of Directors
September 8 Luncheon
September 19 Board of Directors
October 13 Luncheon
November 7 Board of Directors
December 1 Holiday Party

Chapter Membership Dues for 2012

Its time to pay your 2012 Chapter dues! Take advantage of our low, low offer of only \$15 for a year's worth of fun, fellowship, information and great desserts (\$5 for associate members)! Show your pride in being a member of a 5-Star Chapter by sending your check to the General Smallwood Chapter, MOAA, 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 join us! If you have any membership questions, please call Sandy Mitchell at 301-934-8086.

Instructions for the Chinese Gift Exchange

Our holiday party features a Chinese Gift Exchange as all Smallwood Veterans know! If you would like to participate in the fun, you may either bring a gift that ranges in price from \$10 to \$15, or bring in something to "re-gift" or bring something you have made. Rules: Participants 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. After appropriate oohs and aaahs, the person with number 2 has the option of taking either the already opened gift or selecting a new one. If number 2 "steals" the gift number 1 opened, number 1 opens another gift. This process continues until all gifts are unwrapped. Once a gift has been stolen twice, it is "frozen" and cannot be taken again. After the last gift is opened, the person with number 1 may (but does not have to) select any opened gift that has not been frozen. After the exchange is complete, there are no rules against informal trading to get that gift that got away!! The game is a lot of fun and you might go home with something you always wanted--or with something you can save to give away next year! We'll go over the rules again at the party. Remember--participation is voluntary.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2011
Place: VFW Post 8810
Rt. 925 (Old Washington Rd)
Waldorf, MD

Cost: \$18.00
Menu: Turkey, Ham, Stuffing, Gravy,
Sweet and Mashed Potatoes, Apple Sauce,
Vegetable Medley, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls.
Coffee, Iced Tea

Dessert: Please bring some to share!

Time: 1130: Social hour
1300: Chinese Gift Exchange

Program: Holiday Party

Please call Sandy Mitchell at 301-934-8086 to RSVP or send in the form below with your payment.

----- Cut Here -----

Reservation Form for Holiday Party, December 3, 2011

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

Cost: \$18.00 per person

Please mail this form with a check for luncheon payment by November 29th to:

General Smallwood Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 554
Waldorf, MD 20604-0554

For late reservations call: Sandy Mitchell at 301-934-8086



MOAA

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

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