



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



The Smallwood Crier

Year 38 No. 5 Oct/Nov 2011



A Five-Star Chapter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These are perilous, divisive political times. With high unemployment, economic recession, and a national debt that is spiraling out of control, very difficult political choices can no longer be put off. The entire federal budget, necessarily is on the table for reexamination: Social Security, Medicare, the new Health Care Act, and, yes, our military benefits. All of this must happen in the context of a presidential election which promises to be bitter, extended, and divisive. I say all of this to remind you that this is why we belong to MOAA. We need to lift our voices to ensure that the cuts that are coming do not threaten the viability of our nation's defenses or America's security. We who are accustomed to serving, to placing the needs of the nation above our own, we who understand the meaning of sacrifice will have to stand vigilant with our comrades across MOAA to ensure that considered judgments are made with proper attention to both intended and unintended consequences. I ask you to stay engaged. Let our representatives know your thoughts. Talk with your neighbors so that they understand fully what is at stake. And, most important: Vote.

Ken McCreedy, President

Legislative Update

On September 14, several members of the General Smallwood Chapter joined representatives from other chapters from throughout Maryland to participate in the first Maryland legislative luncheon at the Rayburn Office Building on Capitol Hill. Senator Cardin and Representatives Hoyer, Ruppertsberger, Bartlett, Sarbanes and Edwards took time to meet with our delegation which was joined by officers of the national MOAA headquarters, including President Norb Ryan (VADM, USN, Ret.). All of the representatives expressed admiration for the service and sacrifice of military members and their families, past and present. Some singled out the particular needs of this generation of wounded warriors and the obligation of the nation to provide them the best possible care and meaningful job opportunities. With the deficit battle fresh on their minds, and the deliberations of the "Super Committee" scheduled to begin soon to consider \$1.5 trillion in cuts, all our representatives expressed concern that failure to act could create tremendous harm to the Department of Defense. Most speakers

expressed confidence that the House and Senate would find ways to work together to resolve the problem. Sounding a more somber note, Congressman Hoyer warned that with the size of the cuts that would be necessary, the Department of Defense would have to accept a significant reduction in its budget with attendant pressures on retiree benefits and other line items. Overall, attendees agreed that the event offered a highly useful exchange of views and underscored MOAA's commitment to speak up for both the needs of current service members and those who continue to serve as retirees. The Maryland Council intends to conduct the Legislative Luncheon again in 2012.

Chapter Notes

TAPS

Captain Carl Costenbader, (USAF, Ret). passed away September 29 while living at Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home. He was a World War II veteran and a Smallwood Chapter member for many years. He played the trumpet in the Air Force Band and was the first Commander of the Air Force Academy Band. A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 14, 11:00 a.m., at the Village Green in Indian Head, MD. Services at Arlington National Cemetery will be held later at a date to be determined.

American Freedom Week at La Plata High School

The annual American Freedom Week Program will be held November 10, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at La Plata High School. Refreshments are served after the program. All chapter members are welcome to attend. Those who have gone in years past have enjoyed the recognition for serving our country. If you can attend, please call Sandy Mitchell 301-934-8086 and you will receive an invitation.

Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Party and White Elephant gift exchange to be held on December 3, 2011.

Veterans Day Observances

On November 6, La Plata will stage its annual Veterans Day Parade beginning at 1:00 p.m. We encourage our members to come out and cheer us on as some of our comrades will participate in the parade. Another wonderful event to remind you of what Veterans Day is all about is the annual Pershing gravesite ceremony at Arlington on November 11 at 3:00 p.m. Representatives from Allied Nations from World War I honor the memory of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. The Army Band, Pershing's Own, provides the music, and this year's speaker will be Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara, USCG.

2011 General William Smallwood Chapter Calendar

October 15	Luncheon
October 22	Retiree Appreciation Day at JB Bolling
November 5	Retiree Appreciation Day at JB Andrews
November 6	Veterans Day Parade (La Plata)
November 10	American Freedom Week Observance
November 11	Pershing Ceremony
November 17	Board Meeting
December 3	Holiday Party

Planning Ahead

We all have important documents. Are yours organized? Can they be retrieved when needed? Do yourself and your loved ones a favor and get these papers in order. Here are some suggestions from Karin Manning in the July 2011 edition of MOAA's *The Affiliate*.

"To enable you or a family member to gain quick access when necessary, store one set of your important papers at home in a fireproof lockbox or safe. You might want to store a second set in a safe-deposit box at your financial institution and give a copy to your attorney. The executor of your will should have a copy of your will, the trustee and successor trustee of your trust should have copies of the trust, and the person named in your durable power of attorney should have a copy of that document.

Update your documents from time to time as needed:

- Upon the death of a family member, particularly the loss of a spouse, revisit your documents and make sure they're up-to-date.
- If you move, wills tend to be pretty portable from state to state, but probate procedures might vary. A living trust might make sense in some states but not in others. To find out, contact a local attorney.
- As time goes by, perhaps the person who accepted your power of attorney is no longer able to carry out the duty or has moved or passed away. Make sure your family members know not only your documents are in a home safe or a financial institution safe-deposit box, but also know who has the combination to the safe or the key and authorization to the safe-deposit box. Keep in mind that tax and estate laws change, so review your documents at least annually. They might require an update. Discard old documents that no longer are needed or are invalid.

You'll gain a sense of relief from knowing everything is in order and in the right place if your family members need to access your documents."

October Speaker

Veteran's Profile: LCDR Wayne Smith (USN Ret.) will be our first post-World War II veteran profiled. He enlisted during the Korean War and trained as an electronics technician. After the war, he got out of the Navy for four and a half years, and then reenlisted at the same grade. The remainder of his naval career was spent working in the nuclear power program. As a member of the General Smallwood Chapter, Wayne Smith has served as President and Treasurer.

Our primary speaker is still to be determined as we go to press. We are waiting confirmation from The Adjutant General of Maryland, MG James Adkins, that he will be available. If not, we'll have a nice backup program!

Getting the Smallwood Crier--Switching to E-mail as the Norm

In the future, to save postage we plan to distribute the Crier by e-mail only unless you coordinate with Polly Zimmerman to continue to receive it by regular mail. Don't worry, those of you that do not have e-mail will continue to receive their Crier by regular mail. For all who will be receiving it by e-mail, ensure you add pollyzimmerman@gmail.com to your address book to ensure your e-mail system doesn't think she is a purveyor of "Junk Mail!"

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2011
Place: VFW Post 8810
Rt. 925 (Old Washington Rd)
Waldorf, MD

Cost: \$18.00
Menu: Baked Chicken, Potatoes and
Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Apple Sauce,
Vegetable Medley, Salad, Rolls.
Dessert: Please bring some to share!
Coffee, Iced Tea

Time: 11:30 Social hour
12:00 Program

Program: Veteran Profile: LCDR Wayne Smith
(USN, Ret.)
Speaker (TBA)

Please call Sandy Mitchell at 301-934-8086 to RSVP by 12 October.

Note: Please send check for luncheon payment to: PO Box 554, Waldorf, MD 20604



MOAA

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