President’s Corner
On 16 May, a great time was had by all those who participated in honoring our JROTC Cadets at the Cafe des Artiste in Leonardtown. Not only was the food superb, but our program was also first class. Each of the four cadets who attended the luncheon offered us a short sketch of memorable moments in his or her training experiences. We witnessed poise, dedication, a positive attitude and good humor under fire. As this is one of the finest programs in our calendar year, we know that you will not want to miss the next one in May, 2010.

We owe special thanks to LTC Jack Fringer, who coordinates our JROTC awards program for the seven high schools in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. Our appreciation also to CDR John LeRoy, CDR Tony Blankenship, and CWO5 Joseph Bush for presenting these awards this year, along with Jack Fringer and me.

We eagerly look forward to our next Chapter social gathering on 20 June. The details are included in this newsletter.

My best to all,
Evelyn S. DeLuca-Widmer
Major, USAR (Ret)

Welcome Aboard
The Chapter recruited a new member last month:
LCDR Mark Coppenbarger, USN-Retired and his wife Carol, who reside in California MD. LCDR Coppenbarger was already a member of national MOAA. He was recruited by Chapter President Evelyn DeLuca-Widmer.

Chapter Meeting
Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on 20 June at Lenny’s Restaurant in California. Our guest speaker will be Betty Curry, who was President Bill Clinton’s Personal Secretary. (Betty started her career as a GS-2 clerk/typist and ended up as the Personal Secretary to the President of the United States. Her biography is attached.) Betty addressed one of our Chapter luncheons a couple of years ago, and she brought along “Socks”, the Presidential Cat (now deceased). This time, Betty will talk about her experiences when she was asked to work for the Obama Presidential Transition Team. Betty emphasizes that she does not talk about politics or Washington scandals; therefore, Republicans can feel free to attend this luncheon! The rest of the details are on the last page.
Betty Currie

Betty Currie was born in Edwards Mississippi. Shortly after her birth, her parents moved with their nine children to Waukegan, Illinois.

After graduating from high school in 1957, Betty got a job as a GS-2 Clerk/Typist at the nearby U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Illinois. She later moved to Washington, D. C. and worked at the Navy Department, the Postal Service, U. S. Agency for International Development, the Peace Corps, and the Department of Health and Human Services. She also took courses at Howard University, American University and Antioch College.

Betty's rise in the government bureaucracy began when she became the Personal Secretary to the Peace Corps Director in 1969. Betty stayed with the Peace Corps through three directors. Her association with the Peace Corps has continued with her appointment to the Board of Directors of the National Peace Corps Association in 2006.


Following Bill Clinton's election to the presidency in 1992, Betty served on President Clinton’s transition team until President Clinton asked her to be his personal secretary in the White House. She served throughout both of Clinton's terms. In this capacity, she coordinated the President’s communications including phone calls, letters, e-mails, coordinating appointments and she greeted all visitors. Meeting heroes like Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks compensated for the long hours that she put into her work.

After retirement, Betty moved to Hollywood, Maryland with her husband Bob. Betty still keeps in touch with the Clinton family. She also cared for "Socks", Chelsea Clinton's White House cat, until “Socks” passed away in February 2009 after a long battle with cancer.

In retirement, Betty tends to shy away from publicity and keeps a low profile in Southern Maryland. Few people would recognize her while shopping in the Wal-Mart; however, in December 2008, Betty once again returned to Washington. John Podesta, who was President Clinton’s last White House chief of staff, became the co-chairman of President-elect Obama’s transition team. Admiring her "grace, dedication and public spirit", he asked Betty to work on the Obama transition team. She did so with the understanding that she would not return to the White House after the inauguration. (She said her husband would kill her if she did!)
DEERS Information

Inaccurate information in the Defense Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) can cause problems when filing claims or filling prescriptions and might lead to denial of care or non-issuance of an ID card.

DEERS is a worldwide computerized database of service members and their dependents, both active duty and retired.

You should update your DEERS information anytime your address, phone number or e-mail address changes; before your military ID card expires; when attaining Medicare eligibility (sponsor and dependent); upon any change in marital status; and upon the death of a sponsor or a family member. To verify your DEERS information, visit the ID Card Issuing Office in the Admin Building at NAS Patuxent River. To change your phone number, address or e-mail address in DEERS, call (800) 538-9552, visit www.tricare.mil/deers or mail new information to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, Attn: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955.

If you have a permanent or indefinite ID card, you still must update your DEERS information. Retired service members are issued permanent ID cards. Dependents generally have to obtain a new ID card every four years; however, dependents 75 years of age and older are eligible for a permanent ID card.

The key to using your TRICARE benefits is current information and registration in DEERS. Information refers to your personal contact information while registration refers to a valid military ID card. Only a sponsor can add or delete family members, but all beneficiaries are authorized to update their contact information.

Adapted from the, AUXILIARY CORNER
The Affiliate, June 2009
An MOAA publication

MOAA Federal Charter

MOAA is the largest military association and the fourth-largest veterans' association in the country, and yet, we do not have a federal charter! MOAA recently learned that at least nine states (including Maryland) exclude from participation on state veterans' advisory boards and committees organizations that do not have federal charters. It's inappropriate to exclude MOAA from such participation. A large cosponsor list is needed to help ensure passage of legislation to grant MOAA a federal charter. Please urge your elected federal officials to cosponsor our charter legislation.

It’s easy to do if you have a computer. Go to www.moaa.org, see “Legislative Update” on the left, click on “Support MOAA Federal Charter”, click on “urge your elected officials” and then follow the directions. Thank you for your support.
**Chapter Meeting**

Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on Saturday, 20 June 2009 at Lenny’s Restaurant, which is on Route 235 in California MD just across the road from the Wildewood Shopping Center. The lunch will be a choice of Monte Cristo (which is a turkey, bacon and Swiss Cheese sandwich, French dipped and grilled and then topped with hollandaise sauce), or grilled chicken salad (grilled chicken on a bed of salad greens), or spinach mushroom melt (which is sautéed spinach and mushrooms with mozzarella cheese on a baguette), or a Lenny’s Burger with lettuce and tomato on the side. French Fries are included with all meals except the salad. Coffee, iced tea and soda are included. Social hour will begin at 1130 and we will have lunch at noon. The cost will be $15.00 per person. Please make your reservations by Wednesday, 17 June to:

John LeRoy at leroyapac@comcast.net or (410) 257-0439, or
Jack Fringer at jackfringer@chesapeake.net (410) 326-0486

****BOARD OF DIRECTORS****

The Board of Directors will not meet in the month of June.

---

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER**  
Military Officers Association of America  
P. O. Box 84  
NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material  
Deliver Promptly

---

Non-Profit Organization