

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND **NEWSLETTER**

MOAA-SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER
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May 2010

President's Corner:

I want to encourage all of you to mark your calendars for the May 15th JROTC Awards Luncheon. These outstanding cadets have sacrificed and worked hard to earn their accolades, so let's be there to show our appreciation. See details below.

My best,
Evelyn DeLuca-Widmer

Chapter Meeting

Our next Chapter Meeting will be our Annual JROTC Recognition luncheon. There are now seven high schools in Southern Maryland that have JROTC programs. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, 15 May, at the Café des Artistes (one of the finest restaurants in St. Mary's County). The restaurant is located on the square in downtown Leonardtown. Please come out and show your support for these outstanding young men and women. They are truly the future of our armed forces and the future of our country. The rest of the details are on page 3.

TAPS

A former chapter member, CW4 Thomas R. Doyle, USAR-Retired passed away in April at the age of 84. He had an interesting career. He served in World War II with an underwater demolition team in the Navy from 1944 until 1946. Following the war, he moved to Washington DC and served in the Metropolitan Police Department from 1949 until 1967. During the same time, he served in the Army Reserve, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer in 1986. He was also active with the Coast Guard Reserve. He moved to Valley Lee in 1973. In 1978, Mr. Doyle became the master of the *Dove*, a replica of one of the 17th century ships that carried the first English settlers to Maryland in 1634.

Storm the Hill

Visit the MOAA website, www.moaa.org. On the left side of the Home Page, see "Legislative Update". Click on "MOAA Storms the Hill for You." At the bottom of that article, it reads, "Visit MOAA Storming the Hill page for a video recap of the day's events." Click on the blue highlighted area of that sentence. The person on the right in the photo is U. S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Jr.(D-8th). (Congressman Van Hollen was the lead sponsor in the U. S. House of Representatives of the legislation that resulted in a Congressional Charter for MOAA last year.) On the left in the photo is Past Chapter President and current Chapter Board Member Jack Fringer, who is also the current President of the MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters.

Auxiliary Corner

Did your spouse serve in Vietnam? If so, a new VA ruling might make you eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), a monthly compensation of about \$1,150, payable when a service member's death is service-related. The VA recently issued a "presumptive" ruling, which added three diseases - Parkinson's disease, B-cell leukemia, and ischemic heart problems (all attributable to Agent Orange) - to the list of causes of death that qualify a surviving spouse for DIC. If your spouse's death certificate lists any of the above or any previously "presumed" diseases such as diabetes, prostate cancer, or respiratory cancer as cause of death, you might be eligible for DIC. The VA presumptive ruling is important because proof of an association between the disease and death does not have to be provided. The VA has presumed that Agent Orange is a factor if the death certificate includes one of the listed illnesses.

If you think your spouse's death meets these qualifications, apply immediately for DIC, as DIC will be paid retroactively to the date the VA receives your application (if you are eligible). One of the quickest ways to apply for DIC is by using a VA benefits counselor in a VA regional office near you.* (Visit www.vba.va.gov/vba and click on "Find a Benefits Office" on the right side of the page.) They will help you file the application using the appropriate forms and documentation. Remember, you must have proof of your spouse's deployment to Vietnam and a death certificate with one of the presumptive diseases listed.

DIC is a significant monthly benefit to which you might be entitled based on your spouse's military service. Don't wait! Find out whether you're eligible today.

From "The Affiliate", May 2010, Auxiliary Corner, by Joyce Harte, MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

**Editor's Note: There is a VA representative at the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center at NAS Patuxent River every Thursday. Call (301) 342-4911 for reservations.*

Chapter Meeting

Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on Saturday, 15 May 2010 at the Café des Artistes on the square in Leonardtown. The lunch will be a choice of Grilled Salmon (served with beurre blanc, rice pilaf and ratouille); or Chicken and Crab (sautéed breast of chicken topped with crab imperial and provolone, with au gratin potato and vegetables); or Prime Rib (served with wild mushroom sauce, potato and vegetables); or Eggplant Napoleon (layers of sautéed eggplant, mozzarella and fresh tomatoes served over linguini with marinara sauce and parmesan). Coffee, iced tea, soda, rolls and dessert (chef's choice) are included. Social hour will begin at 1130 and we will have lunch at noon. The cost will be \$21.00 per person. Please make your reservations by Monday, 10 May to:

John LeRoy at leroyac@comcast.net or (410) 257-0439, or
Jack Fringer at jackfringer@chesapeake.net (410) 326-0486, or
Tom Smith at rotorhead99@md.metrocast.net or (301) 475-3694.

*****BOARD OF DIRECTORS*****

**The Board of Directors will meet
at 1100, 15 May, at the Cafe.**



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