



Middle Tennessee Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



One Powerful Voice.®

Web Site: mtcmooa.org

February 2010

Editors: Gus and Doug

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

VA Death & Burial Benefits
February 23, 2010
11:30 AM

Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Dr
Franklin TN 37069

LTC (R) Wanda Graham our Personal Affairs Liaison will host our annual Personal Affairs program; with a focus on VA Death and Burial Benefits.

Mr. Brad Raines, representing Dignity Memorial, a network of funeral, cremation and cemetery providers will be on hand to provide his insight and guidance as well as discuss the Veterans Planning Guide, published by Dignity Memorial.

LTC Graham will also have copies of MOAA's Military Funeral Information Booklet.

Both booklets will be available to those that attend the meeting following the conclusion of the presentation.

If you have general (not-specific to your personal situation) questions that could be shared with Mr. Raines prior to the meeting please send them to LTC Graham at wandagraham@comcast.net or call her at 615-491-7380. There will be time for personal questions following the presentation.

Weather Policy
Scheduled meetings will be postponed if the Davidson or Williamson County schools are closed due to adverse weather. If the school openings are delayed by only a couple of hours we will make every effort to meet.

Officers

(Board Contact Number 615-415-6816)

President

COL (R) Doug Minton

1st Vice President

CAPT (R) Dana McLendon

Secretary

LCDR (R) Gus Gustafson

Treasurer

CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling

Past President

CDR (R) John Ohlinger

Directors

BG (R) Jeremiah Brophy

LTC (R) Wanda Graham

1st Lt John Manley

CAPT (R) Charles Stewart

COL (R) Bill Bacon

Auxiliary Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

2010 Dues

Thanks to the 187 auxiliary and regular members that have paid their 2010 dues!

If you have not yet paid, your dues may be remitted to:

Middle TN Chapter, MOAA
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Your dues status will be indicated by the year your dues are paid through; if it shows "Dues Paid Through January 2010" then its time to locate the checkbook. Dues are \$20.00 for regular members, and \$5.00 for Auxiliary members.

Welcome New Members!

CAPT Jamie Hopkins
USN

CAPT Jerry Jenkins
USN Ret.

Newsletter via Email

To date we have heard from 114 of 148 members with email concerning receiving the newsletter via email.

If you would like to receive it in this manner, and have not already responded please send your address to info@mtcmooa.org today.

MTC Board Notes

Once again your Board left the January meeting convinced that the presentation of our financial and program status, and then the solicitation of speaker ideas from the membership is absolutely the right way to conduct business! An organizational meeting does not sound too exotic, but it does ensure that everyone knows how your chapter operates. Thanks to all that participated in the meeting!

We continue to have a growing level of involvement across the entire spectrum of ROTC programs in our area, from presenting gold bars for graduation to awards packets at High School and College level. Thanks to Maj Danny Sullenger and CAPT Dana McLendon for the ongoing effort in support of the ROTC program!

MOAA National has introduced their 2010 Membership Program with a special offer for national membership; if you have not previously joined the National Organization members (auxiliary and regular) can join for two years for \$28.00. Actively serving officers (active and reserve component) can join at no cost for one year. Both programs offer you the opportunity to experience membership for yourself and then decide whether you want to continue. They also offer the opportunity to transit from annual to life member as part of the 2010 program. If you are interested, or know of someone that is please let me know and I will get the necessary forms to you.

And finally, my apologies to all of our World War II and Korean veterans that use email. I have enjoyed talking to so many of you since the last meeting and have gained a newfound appreciation for your mastery of today's technology.

Doug Minton
President, MTC

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Upcoming MTC Programs

February 23, 2010
Annual Personal Affairs Presentation
LTC Wanda Graham USA (Ret)

March 23, 2010
The Largely Untold Story of the 2nd BN/ 7th Cavalry at the Battle of Ia Drang
1LT Bud Alley

April 27, 2010
All Services Scholarship Program
CDR Mike Neuser

TRICARE News

The Federal Courts have upheld the claim by Humana Military Health Care Services, so Humana will continue as the TRICARE South Regional Service Provider for 2010. South Region TRICARE Customer Service can be reached by calling (800) 444-5445.

The "TRICARE Standard Handbook: Your Guide to Using TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra" is available now on the TRICARE Smart Site at <http://www.tricare.mil/standardhandbook>. The 68-page handbook includes information on accessing routine, urgent and emergency care, as well as TRICARE's prior authorization and referral requirements. Also provided are sections on what's covered by TRICARE Standard's health and pharmacy benefits, and how to coordinate TRICARE with other health insurance. Information on claims, appeals, grievances, reporting fraud and abuse and much more can also be found in the new TRICARE Standard handbook.

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries can expect to see the annual TRICARE Standard Health Matters newsletter, containing the latest updates and information about their benefits, in their mailbox in March 2010. The newest TRICARE Standard and Extra handbook is now available to all TRICARE Standard beneficiaries.

Legislative News

It appeared that the 21% cut in Medicare and TRI-CARE payments to doctors was going to be fixed when House Joint Resolution 45 was passed by the Senate and the House over the last two weeks; however it is still scheduled to go into effect March 1, 2010. The Joint Resolution would let Congress reverse that huge cut without requiring specific cost off-sets, but separate legislation is still needed to actually accomplish corrective action. **With only a few weeks remaining before the cuts kick in, it's more important than ever to (again) urge your legislators to act immediately to stop the 21% cut, and keep thousands more doctors from potentially dropping military and Medicare patients.**

DoD Budget

The Pentagon rolled out its FY2011 defense budget this week, proposing a \$549 billion base budget (a 3.4% increase over 2010) and \$159 billion more to support war operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Highlights of initiatives proposed in the new budget include:

Pay Raise - A military pay increase of 1.4%. This would match private sector pay growth between 2008 and 2009. But it would be the lowest military raise since 1963. If enacted, it would be the first year since 1999 without at least some progress in reducing a basic pay raise gap that still stands at 2.4%.

Concurrent Receipt - The budget again proposes a five-year plan to phase out the disability offset to military retired pay for all members whose service-caused conditions forced them into medical retirement. Congress failed to enact a similar proposal last year after being unable to identify cost offsets.

Family Support - The budget provides \$8.8 billion - an increase of \$450 million from last year - to emphasize the importance of child support and youth programs, spouse employment, commissaries, and schools.

Health Care - The budget proposes \$50.7 billion to fully fund the Defense Health Program without any TRI-CARE fee increases for retirees.