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Middle Tennessee Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



Web Site: mtcmooa.org

September 2011

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Luncheon September 27, 2011; 11:30 AM

LtCol Roy Simmons, USAF (Ret)

2010 Recipient of the French Legion of Honor

Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive
Franklin TN 37069

Roy Simmons Jr. has worn many hats through his life - fighter pilot, career military man, community college dean.

Simmons, who grew up in Bowling Green and now lives in Nashville, has been considered something else altogether by the people of La Pezade, France - a hero. Simmons, though, was only made aware last year of the high regard in which he was held in France.

A phone call from a Vietnam veteran started a journey that led the 88-year-old Simmons from Nashville to France, where on Aug. 22 he received the Legion of Honor, the French government's highest honor, and was given a hero's welcome.

For years, unbeknownst to Simmons, the French town held a ceremony to remember and celebrate Lt. Col. Simmons and his wingman, 2nd Lt. Richard Hoy, for their efforts in World War II as Army Air Corps fighter pilots to defend the village from encroaching Nazis.

The pair led a tactical reconnaissance mission on Aug. 22, 1944, flying over the town in P-51 Mustang fighter's and strafing the German convoy. Hoy's plane was shot down by the Germans, killing him. Simmons escaped unharmed.

As the reconnaissance mission fell apart in the sky, a group of Frenchmen on the ground in La Pezade banded together and attempted to defend their town, and 23 resistance fighters were killed in the skirmish.

Simmons remained in the military after World War II, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1967 ; and retiring to Nashville in 1980.

Should be another good meeting!

Officers

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MTC Scholarship Program

Our 2011 Chapter Scholarship Drive is still underway!

Your response so far has been outstanding with \$3350.00 raised for this scholarship year! Scholarship contributions should be mailed to the P. O. Box shown above.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming and getting to know the following new members:

Major Kirk Parsons

USMCR

CPT Frank Thomas

USAR

President's Letter

The statewide meeting of all the MOAA chapters in Tennessee (known as the Tennessee Council of Chapters) is scheduled for October 14-16 at Arnold AFB, Tullahoma, TN. Space is still available at the Wingo Inn (base temporary housing) by calling 931-454-3056. Spouses are welcome.

Congressman Jim Cooper, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, heads the list of speakers. Col Mike Hayden, Deputy Director of MOAA's Government Relations Department will also present. Both these speakers are expected to provide valuable insight into the coming "Battle of the Budget" in light of our nation's Debt and Deficit crisis. Both will focus on how the Department of Defense and individual service members, both those still serving and retirees, are likely to be impacted.

My experience at previous MOAA gathering has been very positive. I enjoy getting to know MOAA members from other chapters who have similar backgrounds and values. I hope you will avail yourself of this opportunity to learn more about the organization of which you are a part. Please contact our Chapter secretary, Col Doug Minton with questions on Meeting Registration, which is separate from reservations at the Wingo Inn.

We continue to have great speakers at our meetings, and our attendance reflects that fact. The quality of the speakers is a direct result of speaker suggestions made by our membership and followed up by our Board. If you have an idea for a speaker please pass it on to LTC Wanda Bruce-Graham at the earliest possibility.

Finally, if you have not already done so, I hope you will consider a donation to our chapter's Scholarship Fund Drive. We are supporting both our third MOAA nation scholarship (awarded to service juniors) and our chapter's scholarships at Lipscomb and Belmont Universities (awarded to veterans). Donations are tax deductible.

Dana McLendon

Middle Tennessee Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Upcoming Programs & Events

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Sep 24, 2011

Wounded Warrior Project—Soldier Ride

-
Oct 14-16, 2011

TN Council of Chapters Statewide Meeting

Arnold AFB, Tullahoma, TN

-
Oct 25, 2011; 1130 Hrs.

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Bob Tuke and Mike Jones “Operation Stand Down” & “Not Alone”

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November 4-6, 2011

19th Annual Operation Stand Down

1164 Foster Avenue, Nashville, TN 37210

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Nov 15, 2011: 1130 Hrs.

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Commissioner MANY-BEARS GRINDER

COL (Ret) USA

TN Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Driver Safety Program

AARP is offering a free Driver Safety Program (Defensive Driving Course) in November to anyone with a military connection. This includes all veterans as well as their spouse and dependents. This is an eight hour classroom course presented in two four hour segments. Participants 55 years and older completing the course will be entitled to an auto insurance discount good for the next three years. Those under age 55 may be offered a discount but must contact their insurance carrier.

LCDR Gus Gustafson, USN (Ret) has tentatively scheduled a course November 16-17, 9:00am – 1:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 4815 Franklin Road, Nashville. He would like to have 15-25 participants. If interested, please call or e-mail him at 373-0455 or bgust1805@aol.com.

DFAS Update

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) announced this week that retirees will see changes to two upcoming monthly retiree checks that will make it easier to keep their monthly bill payments straight...but could potentially affect their tax liability.

The changes were mandated by a provision in the FY2011 Defense Authorization Act, which now requires DFAS to process retiree pay on the preceding business day when the first day of the month falls on a weekend or national holiday.

This affects retired pay checks previously scheduled for Oct 3, 2011 and Jan 3, 2012, but which now will be issued on Sep 30, 2011 and Dec 30, 2011 respectively.

This change adjusts retired pay, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP), Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), retiree allotments, garnishments, and court-ordered former spouse and child support payments; however, it does not affect survivor benefit plan annuity payments.

The good news is that retirees will now have access to their monthly retired pay in order to transfer funds or pay bills that come due on the first of the month.

The bad news (for 2011, anyway) is that, for tax purposes, retirees will see 13 rather than the normal 12 payments for calendar year 2011. Depending on their withholding situation, this could mean a higher-than expected tax liability when filing income taxes next spring. For tax year 2012 and beyond, retirees will receive their normal 12 payments.

DFAS recommends that customers speak with a tax advisor, the Internal Revenue Service, or their own state tax authority to determine how this change might impact their tax liability. © MOAA 2011