



Soundings, December 2014

President's Message

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

Our last joint CCNL hosted October 14th dinner meeting at the Coronado Yacht Club with Erica Putnam, Director of Education and Outreach for the National Marine Mammal Foundation as our Guest of Honor/Speaker was a FUN and VERY INTERESTING event – MAXIMUM THANKS to all who attended!!!

Information on our upcoming SS MOAA hosted joint dinner meeting (with CCNL) on December 9th appears on pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter, with a reservation (RSVP) form that can be printed out and sent in with a check to make a reservation for the meeting. Please note that this dinner meeting will be held on a Tuesday evening at the Coronado Yacht Club. Our Guest of Honor/Speaker will be FBI Special Agent Erin Phan, who will provide a case presentation on the public corruption investigation of former U.S. Congressman Randal "Duke" Cunningham – this should be another VERY interesting presentation, and if you ever wanted to know what REALLY happened, this is one you DON'T want to miss!!! This will also double as our annual "Installation Meeting" where former Silver Strand Chapter President and National MOAA Board Member MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC (Ret) will install next year's chapter officers and BOD. We will also be collecting gift items at our dinner meeting to support the military families being served by the San Diego Armed Services YMCA – needs include new unwrapped toys for kids from 0-18 (no stuffed animals please), gift

cards at a suggested \$20 value, gas cards, new children's clothes, wrapping paper and ribbon, gift certificates to NEX/MCCS, iTunes, things teens like. Please bring these items (unwrapped) to the dinner if you would like to contribute to this GREAT cause!!! And finally, the Navy Officers' Spouses Club who run the Sand Dollar will have some goodies for sale during our Social Hour prior to the meeting (nautical themed goods, Coronado crown items, Navy insignia paper goods, jewelry, scarves, dishes, baby items, Christmas decorations and gifts), so bring a few extra \$\$\$ and support another GREAT cause!!! Proceeds provide scholarships for dependents and spouses. RSVPs for the dinner meeting are due NLT Friday, December 5th - PLEASE come out and join us for dinner and a GREAT time!!!

We had our second SS MOAA parade entry for this year in the San Diego Veterans Day Parade on November 11th – we had a hot rod MOAA logoed Mustang convertible with two retired military chaplains riding shotgun, and cadets from the Mar Vista High School NJROTC unit carrying the MOAA logo banner and providing a Color Guard – it was another AWESOME event in downtown San Diego!!! A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Mrs. Pat Donahue for chairing our Letters to the Troops Program again this year, and to all of the members who volunteered to read and judge the letters!!! We had well over 500 letters submitted by all of the Coronado schools, and it was TOUGH to pick the winners. First and second place winners from each school will receive

gift certificates to Bay Books – look for an article in the Eagle Journal in the near future announcing the winners. We know that the troops receiving the letters will thoroughly enjoy reading them!!!

We have been making good progress in developing our slate of chapter officers and board of directors (BOD) for the upcoming 2015 year, but we still have a few positions to fill, so are still searching for a few more members who might be inclined/willing to serve as a chapter officer or on our BOD for the betterment of our chapter. It is both a fun and rewarding experience! The list of officer and board positions and those currently filling them appears near the end of this newsletter, as well as the pending slate for next year with open positions indicated. PLEASE let CAPT Kathy Bruyere, USN (Ret), Immediate Past President and Nominating Committee Chairwoman or me (or any board member) know if you'd be interested in/willing to serve the chapter in any way – THANKS VERY MUCH!!!

We are in the final stage of our dues renewal period for those members whose chapter dues will expire at the end of 2014. Since we began our multiple-year membership options a few years ago, not every member's dues expire on the same year, and since we are e-mailing (vice snail mailing) our newsletters now, we realize members may not know or remember just when their chapter dues expire. Therefore, at the end of this newsletter is a list of members with the date your dues are paid through to the right of your

name. If a "14" appears by your name, your chapter dues are paid through the 2014 year, and would need to be renewed for the 2015 (or beyond) year. We still have three dues options: \$10/year, \$40/5 years, \$50 paid through 2020 (one half these amounts for Auxiliaries). We hope you will ALL decide to continue membership with chapter next year, and long into the future!!! Dues can be paid in conjunction with your dinner reservations (or separately) by using the dinner reservation form included in this newsletter. And remember, if you stay with us until you reach age 90, you become a Legacy Member and your chapter dues are waived for eternity!!! MAXIMUM THANKS ALL!!! Have a HAPPY Thanksgiving, a MERRY Christmas/Hanukkah, and a FABULOUS New Year!!! Hope to see you all on December 9th!!!

V/r,
Tom

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Guest Speaker

FBI Special Agent Erin Phan

FBI Special Agent Erin Phan will provide a case presentation on the public corruption investigation of former U.S. Congressman Randall "Duke" Cunningham. Congressman Cunningham was a

highly decorated naval aviator and war hero before being elected to U.S. Congress in 1990 and serving six consecutive terms. The investigation uncovered a vast bribery scheme involving two defense contractors, resulting in the largest known bribery of a U.S. Congressman in our nation's history. Congressman Cunningham ultimately admitted to receiving

over \$2.4 million in bribes from government contractors and was sentenced to eight years and four months in federal prison.

Erin Phan entered on duty with the FBI in January 2004. Following completion of New Agents Training at Quantico, Virginia, Special Agent Phan was assigned to the San Diego Division's Public Corrup-

tion Squad. Special Agent Phan has spent the last 10 years investigating public corruption and complex financial crimes. Special Agent Phan obtained an undergraduate and master's degree in accounting from the University of Virginia, and is a Certified Public Accountant. Special Agent Phan is married and has two sons, ages six and three.

National Military News

Sources: Top Appropriators Focusing Solely on Omnibus

WASHINGTON — Capitol Hill's top appropriators have yet to discuss another short-term measure to keep the government running, focusing solely on a longer-term bill they hope to drop in early December.

Rep. Harold Rogers, R-Ky., and Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations committees, respectively, are cobbling together an omnibus spending bill that would fund the Pentagon and other federal agencies through Sept. 30.

A stopgap government-funding measure expires Dec. 11, and House conservatives' desire to use repeated threats of government shutdowns to influence the White House's pending action on immigration has House GOP leaders searching for options.

As leaders look for a way to avoid a government shutdown, which they believe would damage the party, Rogers and Mikulski are in talks to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year, congressional sources say.

"I can tell you ... that all of leadership is working towards an omnibus and the chair think [s] we will have a deal in place by early Dec.," a House aide wrote in a Thursday email, referring to Rogers.

Neither House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, nor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has said when they intend to move a government-funding bill next month.

But a Senate aide said the appropriations leaders intend to have their omnibus on the floor the week of Dec. 8. (The House Republican leadership this week altered the lower chamber's schedule to be in session that day.)

"We are making significant progress on a full-year, 12-bill omnibus," the Senate aide said. "We expect to have it ready for the floor by the week of Dec. 8."

Among the dozen appropriations bill that will comprise the omnibus, is a full 2015 defense spending bill with a war funding section.

Study: Volunteer Work Could Help Vets' Careers

Volunteer work after military service has been billed as a way for veterans to better connect to their communities and build new relationships. Now, a new study says it also might help them find better jobs.

Researchers tracking The Mission Continues fellowship program, which places veterans in volunteer organizations across the country, found that 90 percent of the participants

believed the community work helped their chances of finding a job. More than 80 percent said the volunteer experience encouraged them to seek out a better career.

"The results suggest that the skills, experience and connections gained through service can also help veterans find meaningful employment that will enable them to sustain a sense of purpose and advance their career goals over the long term," the report stated.

The study was a joint effort between the Center for a New American Security and The Mission Continues, designed to highlight models for veterans' success. Study authors said the work shows the broad benefits of community service, especially for veterans unsure of their first steps of post-military life.

"We hope that other organizations see this as a call to use volunteer work and community outreach more in their programs," said Aaron Schienberg, regional director for The Mission Continues. "And we'd like to see the Defense Department and Veterans Affairs use it in their transition efforts as well."

The study tracked more than 400 group fellows, looking at their overall well-being before and after their six-month com-

munity service programs. They reported much stronger ties with neighbors and local leaders after the work, which in turn increased confidence and post-military support networks.

In addition, 45 percent of participants reported stronger relationships with family members, and 42 percent said their families became more socially active after the program.

"Furthermore, the results suggest that the skills, experience and connections gained through service can also help veterans find meaningful employment that will enable them to sustain a sense of purpose and advance their career goals over the long term," the study states.

Oliver Gould, research specialist at The Mission Continues, said the fellows in the program reflect a broad range of younger veterans, with about 75 percent reporting some service-connected disability. Officials see that as an indication the lessons learned from their research can be applied to other veterans outreach efforts.

The study is available at the CNAS website.

Current House Of Representatives Veteran Legislation

Bill	Discussion	Status
S.2450 Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014	To improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.	06/11/2014: Senate passed companion measure H.R. 3230 in lieu of this measure by Ye-Nay Vote. 93 - 3. Record Vote Number: 187.
S.2362 Prohibit Bonuses for VA Execs	A bill to prohibit the payment of performance awards in fiscal year 2015 to employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.	05/20/2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
S.2334 Improving Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses	Improving Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Act of 2014	05/14/2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
S.2296 Veterans Appeals Improvement Act of 2014	Veterans Appeals Improvement Act of 2014 - To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to employ at least three decision review officers at each regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.	05/07/2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
S.2258 Veterans' Compensation COLA Act of 2014	Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase, as of December 1, 2014, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Requires each such increase to be the same percentage as the increase in benefits provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, on the same effective date.	09/26/2014: Signed by President.
S.1982 Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits Bill	Amends federal veterans provisions to revise or add provisions concerning medical services and other benefits provided to veterans and/or their dependents through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	02/27/2014: Committed to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
H.R.4810 Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014	To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes.	06/11/2014: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
H.R.4741 Surviving Spouses' Benefit Improvement Act of 2014	To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.	06/03/2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
H.R.4435 National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015	Authorizes appropriations for the Department of Defense (DOD) for FY2015	06/05/2014: Received in the Senate. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.
H.R.3843 Veteran Tax Parity Act	Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from gross income imputed income from the discharge of student loan indebtedness of a veteran with a service-connected total disability that is determined to be permanent in nature.	01/10/2014: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**Dinner Meeting Reservation/
Donation/Dues Form**

Where: Coronado Yacht Club,
1631 Strand Way

When: December 9, 2014
1800: Social Time
1845: Dinner – **BUFFET @ \$30.00**
1930: Program

Gourmet Buffet
Flat Iron Steak, Chicken Marsala, Caesar Salad,
Veggies, Potatoes, Dinner Rolls
Dessert, Coffee and Tea

Make checks payable and mail to:

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 180043
Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending dinner _____ **x \$30 =** _____

Donations to:

NJROTC (Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools) \$ _____

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$ _____

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Dues:

\$10/year for Regular members, \$40 for 5 years \$ _____

\$5/year for Auxiliary members, \$20 for 5 years \$ _____

\$50 for "Renewal 2020" (dues paid through 2020) \$ _____

**Reservations must reach
our PO Box by NOON,
FRIDAY, 5 December
(Firm)**

(\$25.00 for Auxiliaries)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check here if you need an official Silver Strand Chapter MOAA name tag: _____

If you are unable to RSVP by Friday, 5 December and would still like to attend the dinner meeting, please call Tom Bauer at (619) 313-2228 (days) or (619) 437-6689 (evenings), or e-mail bauertg@yahoo.com.

SS MOAA 2014 Officers/Board of Directors

President	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com	USMC Rep.	John Downey, LtCol, USMC (Ret) 435-6877 downeyjdmud@yahoo.com
First Vice	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret) 894-4765 allnavyjcd@aol.com	USN Rep.	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret) 894-4765 allnavyjcd@aol.com
Second Vice	Al Herrmann, CDR, USN (Ret) 437-6210 aherrmann@pacship.com	Legislative	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com
Secretary	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com	Editor	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bob Sheridan, CAPT, USN (Ret) 435-1938 bsheridan9@gmail.com	Personal Affairs	Sparks Moeller 319-5994 RSKL04@yahoo.com
USAF Rep.	Richard Hayward, LtCol, USAF (Ret) 435-4852 rhayward1@san.rr.com	Chaplain	Richard Hayward, LtCol, USAF (Ret) 435-4852 rhayward1@san.rr.com
USA Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG (Ret) 948-1393 dmayhue298@aol.com	TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com
USCG Rep.	Jeff Lee, CAPT, USCG (Ret) 435-1985 JSLee77@aol.com	Auxiliary Liaison	Kathleen Prout 435-6623 kmprout@aol.com
		Event & Media	Joyce Quartly, 858-737-4047 jquartly@aol.com
		Relations Coord	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret) 409-9505
		Past President	kmbruyere@gmail.com

Silver Strand Chapter Member Dues Status

Allega	15	Golden	14	McClure	16	Smisek	18
Andreasen	17	Gott	14	McCue	17	Spittler	14
Ball	14	Grimaud	14	McGrath	20	Stames	14
Bauer	20	Grimm	18	McGuire	18	Strickland	14
Bean	20	Hales	19	McKamey	13	Sund	17
Beatty	14	Harvey	21	Meyer	20	Sweeney	20
Behm	15	Hascup	20	Mitchell	LIFE	Teachout	15
Bell	17	Hatfield	14	Moeller	14	Townsend	20
Bennitt	14	Hayward	LIFE	Monroe	14	Turpit	15
Bernitt	28	Heinze	20	Moody	16	Tyler	17
Bianchini	15	Hernandez	20	Morris, R.	15	Van Rooy	14
Bixler	14	Herrmann	16	Morton	15	Vaughan	15
Blakely	14	Hinesley	14	Mummert	14	Wack	17
Bonelli	14	Hoffmann, D. & P.	20	Newcomb	17	Walsh	18
Bowen	14	Hoffmann, W.	20	Newport	20	Wamsley	14
Breay	14	Hostler	14	Newton	17	Ward	18
Bruyere	20	Howe	15	Nordgren	20	Wastila	20
Buckovetz	20	Humes	14	Nyquist	19	Watson	14
Busbee	15	Huskey	20	O'Brien	17	Weisbrod	15
Butcher	20	Ireland	16	O'Keefe	15	Wells	14
Clausen	17	Jackson	14	O'Leary	18	Woiwode	14
Cooper	14	Jennings	16	Orosz	14	Wood, David	16
Corriere	18	Johnson	25	Owen	15	Wood, Dennis	14
Cotton	14	Kachigian	19	Parker	17	Woods	19
Couture	16	Keeney	17	Penner	16	Worley	17
Crawford	14	Kemp	15	Peterson	20	Wright	18
Cronin	18	Keoleian	18	Pontes	15	Yorck	15
Crow	18	Knop	14	Potts	15	Zaludek	16
Deweese	17	Krejmas	14	Powell	18	Zortman	14
Donahue	19	Lafleur	15	Pray	14	Cuellar	19
Downey, C.	18	Laird	LIFE	Prout	17	David	19
Downey, J.	20	Lamberth	20	Quartly	16		
Duermeyer	15	Lanman	20	Rahill	LIFE		
English	18	Lee	17	Redding	15		
Erly	15	Lover	20	Rogers	14		
Fagan	20	Mallires	18	Ryan	17		
Farrell	20	Malone	15	Rud	14		
Finley	20	Martell	18	Sadlier	20		
Flynn	16	Martin	25	Sangalis	16		
Foley	LIFE	Mather	20	Schranz	15		
Foster	16	Mayhue	16	Shaw	16		
France	14	McCarthy	18	Sheridan	17		
Giorgione	17	McClung	20	Simmons	15		

Have you renewed
your membership?

Auxiliary Liaison News

Once again AMAC had a very busy year! We welcomed three new members to the committee in April: Pat Farnsworth, Virginia Peninsula Chapter, Maryland; Gail Joyce, Greater Granbury Chapter, Texas and Marie Beima, Venice Area Chapter, Florida. We continue to work and advocate for the removal of the SBP DIC Offset. HR 32 has 238 co-sponsors and S- 734 has 39. This was among the 5 issues

that MOAA brought to the attention of Congress. The AMAC focus this year was research and preparation of The Survivor’s Guide. The guide, a supplement the *Personal Affairs Guide*, list things a surviving spouse will need to do and contains contact numbers along with space for dates of contact and notes. When the publication is available in the first quarter of 2015, we encourage everyone to obtain

a copy and place it with your completed *Personal Affairs Guide*. We received seven outstanding nominations for the Auxiliary Liaison Level of Excellence Award. Eleanor Layman from Fort Meade Chapter, Maryland Council of Chapters was this year’s awardee. It was a joy to meet Eleanor at the October Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The "Choice Act" included a new provision for post 9/11 active duty surviving spouses which allows them to use the Fry Scholarship in lieu of Chapter 35 VA education benefits. Applications need to be submitted by Jan, 2015. The committee voted and selected Kathy Prout as the Chairman of AMAC and Sharon Devaney and Gail Joyce as co-chairmen.



Wreaths Across America: To be held at Miramar & Rosecrans National Cemeteries, Saturday, December 13th, 2014, at 0830. You will join various businesses, groups and individuals in placing wreaths on grave sites of our Military Veterans at local National Cemeteries. It is a family event and volunteers under age 10 are requested to be accompanied by an adult. The formal ceremony starts at 0900 and lasts approximately 45 minutes, followed by the laying on of wreaths by everyone. Parking may be limited, so please arrive by no later than 8:30 AM. For those who may be participating at Fort Rosecrans, parking will be in a Navy Lot with shuttles to the cemetery. Comfortable shoes and clothing are recommended, as the event takes place regardless of weather conditions.

To Sign Up: Link to the WAA web site and volunteer as an individual, family or group.
 Website: www.waasandiego.com Click on “get involved”, then click on “volunteer”.

SS MOAA 2015 Officers/Board of Directors

President	USMC Rep.	John Downey, LtCol, USMC (Ret) 435-6877 downeyjdmud@yahoo.com
First Vice (Prog)	USN Rep.	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret) 409-9505 kmbruyere@gmail.com
Second Vice (Mem)	Legislative	Brent Bennitt, VADM, USN (Ret) 301-481-3866 brent.bennitt@gmail.com
Secretary	Editor	Sparks Moeller 319-5994 RSKL04@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Personal Affairs	Tom Johnson, CAPT, USN (Ret) 435-3408 TOMJ435@aol.com
USAF Rep.	Chaplain	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com
USA Rep.	TOPS	Kathleen Prout 435-6623 kmprout@aol.com
USCG Rep.	Auxiliary Liaison	Event & Media Relations Coord Past President
		Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com