



APRIL 2013



SOUNDINGS

SILVER STRAND CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
CAPT TOM BAUER, USNR (Ret)**

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

We had a **GREAT** joint dinner meeting in February with the Coronado Council of the Navy League (CCNL) hosting, and heard an awesome presentation by CDR Jennifer Ellinger, former CO of the USS Kidd. **THANKS VERY MUCH to ALL** who attended! Information on our joint, SS MOAA hosted April 16th dinner meeting appears on pages 3 & 4 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. Our Guest of Honor/Speaker will be CAPT Bill Byrne, Chief of Staff, Commander Third Fleet (and future Commandant of Midshipmen at the US Naval Academy), who will be speaking on the “Status of the Fleet” – should be a very interesting and enlightening presentation, particularly considering the impact of the recent sequestration and continuing resolution budget issues. We are also attempting to identify and invite high school seniors (and their parents) living in the Coronado area who have received appointments to the service academies, or who have received ROTC or MOAA scholarships to attend college. We want to honor and congratulate them for their accomplishments and selection, and “connect the generations” of military leadership – the future military leadership with those currently serving and those who did it “a while” ago. **RSVPs are due NLT April 12th. PLEASE join us!!!**

We still have a few board positions that are in great need of a full time person, namely Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Legislative Liaison. We are also looking for members interested in assisting us on the membership committee, specifically, an active duty officer (any branch of service), a retired or former officer (any branch), and an additional auxiliary member. If anyone is or knows of anyone who might be interested in any of these positions, please let us know!

We want to make sure all members who attend chapter dinner meetings/functions have an official Silver Strand Chapter MOAA name tag. If you do not currently have one and would like one, please let me know via e-mail, phone call, or by indicating your desire/need for a name tag on the dinner meeting reservation form on page 4. We will be placing an order in the very near future for all new members and for those who requested one since our last meeting/newsletter – we will deliver them to everyone who requested/requests one soon after they arrive.

In the February newsletter we provided a list of all chapter members with the year each member's dues are paid through after the name. Response for those owing 2013 dues was good, however we still have about 25 members who we would love to have renew their membership with the chapter. As always, you can choose the one year option (\$10) or the 5 year option (\$40). Many members have chosen the 5 year option, greatly reducing the frequency of having to deal with renewal - it comes highly recommended! Membership can be renewed/dues paid if necessary using the dinner meeting reservation form on page 4 of this newsletter.

We will be scheduling a “Welcome Aboard” social event in the not-too-distant future (likely in late April – May) to meet, welcome and get to know our new members – date/time/details forthcoming soon.

MAXIMUM THANKS and I hope to see you all on April 16th!!!

V/r,
Tom

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Federal Legislation

- **FY-13 Continuing Resolution.** As this report is being written, it appears that the Congress will agree on some sort of CR to fund the federal government through the end of this fiscal year, i.e. 9/30/13. The U.S. Senate voted 73-26 on 3/20/13 to lock in \$85B in spending cuts aimed at restraining federal deficits, and thereby avoid a government shut-down next week when the present CR expires. On 3/21/13 Congress passed an amendment to the DoD's CR, H.R. 933, to fund the military's Tuition Assistance program, which had been cut due to the sequestration.
- **VA Work-Study at State Veterans Homes.** The current legislation authorizing this federal program for veterans working part-time at state Veterans Homes like ours in Chula Vista expires on 6/30/13. An extension of this VA program is being worked by both the U.S. House and Senate now. Locally, Rep Duncan Hunter and Rep Susan Davis along with Senator Barbara Boxer are urging the House and Senate VA Committees to move legislation to the floor ASAP to prevent expiration of this work-study program. Currently, 65 local veterans who are in college work part-time at the Chula Vista Veterans Home under this VA program.
- **HR-32.** Rep Joe Wilson introduced the new "Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act" to address the SBP offset to DIC payments. This effort began over 12 years ago, and is called the "widow's tax." Rep Susan Davis (D, 53rd, San Diego), Rep Juan Vargas (D, 51st, Chula Vista) and Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) are among the 90 co-sponsors for this HR-32 legislation. The HASC's Subcommittee On Military Personnel now has HR-32 for action. This legislation affects over 55,000 military widows, and would finally repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan to offset the receipt of survivors' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- **H.R. 303.** Same number as last Congress, now called the "Retired Pay Restoration Act" and again this new bill for the 113th Congress authorizes the full concurrent receipt of retired military pay and veterans' disability compensation for retirees regardless of disability rating. Laws have been changed over the years to give concurrent receipt to military retirees with VA disability ratings of over 50%, but not for the majority of veterans with less disability ratings. Rep Gus Bilirakis (R, FL) introduced the new HR-303 on 1/15/13. Only 6 members of the U.S. House from CA are among the 55 co-sponsors for this bill, and that includes two from our County, Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) and Rep Scott Peters (D, 52nd, San Diego). Others from CA are: Rep Janice Hahn (D, 44th, San Pedro), Rep Julia Brownley (D, 26th, Oak Park), Rep David Valadao (R, 21st, Hanford), and Rep Ken Calvert (R, 42, Corona). HR-303 has been assigned to both the HASC's Subcommittee on Military Personnel, and to the HVAC's Subcommittee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs as of 2/4/13.
- VFW's Semi-Annual National Legislative Conference was held in DC earlier this month. VFW web site (blog) to track veterans' legislative efforts is <http://theVFW.blogspot.com>.
- To track both U.S. House and U.S. Senate bills, go to: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>. At the center top of the web page, got to the "Legislation In Current Congress" box and simply type in the bill number or key word.

State Bills

- **AB-13.** ASM Rocky Chavez (R, 76th, Oceanside)(past Acting CALVET/CDVA Secretary) introduced AB-13 to give non-resident tuition exemption to military veterans. Existing law exempts a student who was a member of the military stationed in CA on active duty for more than 1 year prior to being discharged from paying the higher non-resident tuition at state universities and colleges. AB-13 would eliminate this requirement that a student be stationed in CA to receive that exemption, and would require the student to be discharged immediately prior year in order to receive the exemption. AB-13 passed the Assembly's Committee on Higher Education with a 13-0 vote on 3/20/13. The VA committee now has AB-13 for action.
- **SB-296.** Sen Lou Correa's (D, 34th, Santa Ana) bill allocates \$11 million to county veteran service offices statewide. That would be a significant increase over the \$2.6M that Governor Brown had proposed in his budget for 2013-14. A San Diego U-T article of 2/21/13 said "the measure will also seek to separately provide \$2M to private service organizations, such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars..." Right now there's nothing in the official text of the bill about funding VSO's. A 2/15/13 press release by Sen Lou Correa stated that "California CVSO's obtained \$346,727,459 in benefit payments in 2011-12 for California veterans and their dependents." SB-296 hopes "to increase the staffing at CVSO offices to increase VA claim initiation and development and draw down significant federal dollars annually," according to Senator Correa's press release. Hearing set on SB-296 for 4/9/13 by the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee.
- To obtain updates on all California legislation, go to: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.



Captain Bill Byrne
Chief of Staff
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

Captain Bill Byrne was born in San Francisco and raised in nearby Pacifica, California. He spent a year at the Naval Academy Prep School before attending the United States Naval Academy where he graduated with a B.S. in Political Science in 1987.

His initial sea tours were in San Diego, California, aboard USS COOK (FF 1083) where he served as Gunnery Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant and aboard USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. Subsequent sea tours were in San Diego and Yokosuka, Japan, aboard USS VINCENNES (CG 49) as Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer and in Norfolk, Virginia, as Executive Officer in USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55). Captain Byrne's command tours were in Mayport, Florida, aboard USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40) and back in San Diego aboard USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71).

Captain Byrne's shore tours include duty as the Aide/Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Naval Forces Marianas, in Guam, and several Pentagon tours including as a Resource Sponsor for the Director, Surface Warfare (OPNAV N86), as a Warfare Analyst for the Director, Warfare Integration (OPNAV N70), and as Division Chief for Antiterrorism/ Force Protection Programs in the Operations Directorate of the Joint Staff (J-3). Captain Byrne received a M.A. in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2004.

His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation and Achievement Medals and various unit and service awards.

Dinner Meeting Reservation/Donation/Dues Form

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2013

(Joint Meeting with Coronado Council Navy League – CCNL Hosting)

**Guest of Honor/Speaker
CAPT BILL BYRNE
UNITED STATES NAVY
CHIEF of STAFF, COMMANDER U.S. THIRD FLEET
“STATUS of the FLEET”**

Where: Coronado Golf Club Clubhouse, 2000 Visalia Row

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

“SOUTHWEST FIESTA”

**Make-Your-Own Marinated Chicken and Angus Steak Soft Tacos with Warm Tortillas, Bandito Beans,
Fresh Salsas & Guacamole, Traditional Mexican Condiments
Salad, Dessert, Coffee & Tea**

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Reservations must reach our PO Box by **Noon, Friday, 12 April (Firm)**

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 \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

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

If you are unable to RSVP by Friday, 12 April 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.

AUXILIARY LIAISON NEWS

At the October 2012 Annual Meeting, MOAA supported the AMAC "Storm the Hill: the SBP/DIC Offset" on July 16 and July 17 in Washington, DC. While this decision was made before the offset was defeated for inclusion in the NDAA 2013, it is now even more important that we educate current Congressmen, Senators, and their Legislative and Military Assistants on the SBP/DIC offset issue.

MOAA will sponsor a Congressional Breakfast for Legislative Assistants and Military Legislative Assistants, on July 17th. Following the breakfast, we will go on "The Hill" to visit individual congressional and senatorial offices regarding the SBP/DIC Offset issue. MOAA has blocked hotel rooms close to restaurants, Old Town Alexandria, and public transportation for us and will provide our transportation from the hotel to the Hill. However, we will be responsible for our own travel, lodging, meals not included in registration, and local transportation expenses. *MOAA has invited members of other military related organization to join us for this MOAA sponsored event too. We need all surviving spouses, family members, retired service members who participated in SBP and their spouses impacted by the offset to join us for success in reaching all 535 of our Congress and Senate!*

Please share this invitation with family and friends. The event flyer is attached. The webpage can be viewed and registration made online using the following links:

<http://www.moaa.org/Main Menu/Chapters and Councils/Chapter Management/Auxiliary Liaisons/AMAC Storming the Hill Event 2013.html>

https://fs20.formsite.com/moaaweb/AMACStorming/secure_index.html

Note: There will be a confirmation email sent to the email account from which the registration was received. Therefore, you can register anyone who does not have or use a computer, but their confirmation will come to your computer.

Kathy Prout will participate in the April MOAA Storming the Hill event and will attend the National Board Meeting in Alexandria, VA.

Please call or email Kathy if you have any questions about the July event, or have questions or a problem related to survivor issues at 619-435-6623 or prout.kathy@gmail.com.

SS MOAA 2013 Officers/Board of Directors

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