

SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

February 2010

Presidents Message MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC (Ret)

It's an honor to have been elected your president for another year. I'm pleased that I'll be joined on the Board of Directors by the outstanding retired officer volunteers listed on page 8. We are your chapter, so if you have an idea regarding how we can better serve you, please contact one of us.

At our December meeting, Admiral Edney presented a fascinating and in many ways troubling perspective of the threats that are potentially facing us from Europe and the Middle East. As an aside, we have just learned that the admiral has been selected as a "Distinguished Graduate" of the US Naval Academy. Congratulations, Admiral Edney!

Our February speaker is Captain (USN, Ret) Bob White. His personal efforts as the President of the Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation have generated significant monies for that foundation. His presentation is sure to be interesting and informative, so make your plans to attend today! (As an added bonus, you'll enjoy the camaraderie of like minded

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CAPT Robert D. White, USN (Ret), was a Commanding Officer of an operational aircraft squadron in Hawaii, and a Navy Base in Japan. He retired in 1995, after 35 years of service and over 4800 hours of flight operations in support of the Cold War ASW, surveillance flights, and special operations throughout the world. He has chaired the Veterans Commission as well as the Safety Commission in the city of Chula Vista. He is presently the President of the Veterans Home Support Foundation, and has been for the past eight years. As President of the Foundation, he leads the effort that has generated nearly \$550,000 in support equipment and quality of life programs for the 290 residents at the Veterans Home. Last year, he has successfully raised over \$45,000 directed toward "Quality of Life" equipment needed for the skilled nursing facility in the Home. Five years ago, the Foundation was selected as the County Veterans Organization of the year. He was selected twice as the City of Chula Vista Veteran of the Year.

See Page 7 for more information on Chapter dinner Monday, 15 February

Legislative Update

Medicare/TRICARE Payment Fix Coming? It appears that, once again, Congress will act at virtually the last minute to stop a 21% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors scheduled to take effect on March 1.

On January 29, the Senate approved a Medicare/TRICARE amendment offered by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) before passing H.J. Res. 45, which increases the national debt limit. The Reid amendment would provide a five-year fix for the Medicare/doctor payment problem.

If approved by the House of Representatives as expected next week, it would put an end (for a while, anyway) to annual threats that big Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts would cause doctors to drop those programs' beneficiaries as patients.

Previously, legislators had been considering yet another one-year "patch". But because the payment cuts compound each year, a one-year fix would have meant facing an even larger 26% cut for January 2011.

The new legislation would buy Congress five years to come up with a permanent fix.

For now, please use [MOAA's special health care alert](#) to urge your U.S. Representative to pass H.J. Res. 45 and clear the decks of the #1 current threat to Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries' health care.

First Lady Highlights Family Initiatives On January 26, First Lady Michelle Obama briefed nearly 400 military spouses attending the Joint Armed Forces Officers' Wives Luncheon at Bolling AFB, DC on the administration's plans to invest \$8.8 billion in military family support programs for FY2011.

Among the highlights were \$1.3 billion to improve availability of high-quality childcare and youth programs, and \$84 million for spousal career development, including tuition assistance and a federal internship program.

\$1.9 billion is slated for counseling and related services for families dealing with deployments.

The budget also includes funds to build 10 new DoD schools and renovate more than 100 others, she said.

Mrs. Obama especially commended the spirit of volunteerism among military families. "[You] still find time to serve others...our communities and our country. You put your priorities aside, you take care of each other, and you take care of the nation," she said, and pledged that she and the President would work hard to take care of military families in return.

Bills of Interest The following is a selection of bills recently introduced in support of members of the military community.

- H.R. 4427 - Rep Joe Wilson (R-SC): Authorize a pay increase of 1.9 percent for members of the uniformed services for fiscal year 2011 (vs. the 1.4% expected in the defense budget)
- HR 4043 - Rep Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH): Recognize spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are serving in combat or have served in combat through the presentation of an official lapel button
- H.R. 4469 – Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH): Prevent revocation of child custody arrangements based upon the deployment of a military parent in support of a contingency operation

Admiral Bud Edney Speaks to Chapter and Installs 2010 Board

Admiral Bud Edney spoke to over 50 members of the Chapter at the December dinner meeting and installed the 2010 officers of the Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Board. ADM Edney had recently returned from the Balkans where he served as the Senior Mentor for National Defense University's CAPSTONE class. In this position he had access to the joint war fighting commands, allied defense leaders and commanders on the ground in hostile areas. He presented an interesting and sobering review of the politics, culture, economics and threats from Europe to the Mid-east emphasizing the impact on national security. ADM Edney installed the 2010 Board after his most memorable talk.



Chapter President Bob Butcher presents ADM Edney with a book after his presentation

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Board 2010



From left: CAPT Nancy Owen, MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC (Ret), CAPT Kathy Bruyere, USN (Ret), CAPT Tom Bernitt, USN (Ret), MajGen John Stihl, USAF (Ret), Col Fred Allega, USMC (Ret), BG Don Mahue, ARNG (Ret), Col Jim Strickland, USAF (Ret), CAPT Jim Cahill, USNR (Ret)

Silver Strand Chapter 2010 Dues Are Due Now

Remember: A member can pay four years dues at one time and get credit for five years dues. In other words a \$40 payment for regular members and a \$20 payment for auxiliary members will result in extending their membership through 2014. We recommend you consider this offer. If you receive your newsletter via the internet and did not receive an e-mail in December notifying you your 2010 dues were due, you are paid up through 2010. If you received this e-mail and have not paid them yet, please do so. You can use the dinner reservation form on page 7 of this newsletter to pay 2010 dues, and contribute to the activities your Chapter supports.

citizens and an excellent meal at a fair price.)

We've once again reached agreement with the Coronado Council of the US Navy League to combine our resources for dinner meetings in April, June, August and October. We'll host the meetings in April and August and the Coronado Council will be responsible for the June and October gathering.

I hope you read the "Letters to the Troops" published in the December 23 issue of Eagle and Journal. The judging of these letters gets harder every year, but it is truly gratifying to know that we are raising such fine young Americans in our community.

Finally, if you haven't paid your 2010 chapter dues, please do so today. Your membership in the chapter is important to us, as it provides us clout with our elected officials and the capital needed to fund the worthy programs we support.

Warm personal regards, Bob Butcher

TAPS

CAPT Robert Redding, USN (Ret)

CAPT Joseph Weaver, USN (Ret)

CAPT Joseph Weaver, USN (Ret) served as President, Silver Strand Chapter MOAA in 1976

ADM Bud Edney Honored as Distinguished Graduate of US Naval Academy

The US Naval Academy Alumni Association has selected Silver Strand Chapter MOAA member ADM Bud Edney as one of the five 2010 recipients of the Distinguished Graduate Award. The message sent to the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Trustees, the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Directors and to Class, Chapter and Parent Club leadership stated: *"Each year, we honor distinguished graduates because of their demonstrated and unselfish commitment to a lifetime of service, their personal character, and the significant contributions they have made to the Navy and Marine Corps or as leaders in industry or government. The 2010 Distinguished Graduate Award Ceremony will be held on Friday, 16 April 2010."*

Congratulations ADM Edney

MOAA President Named Association Executive of the Year

National MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., USN-Ret., was named Association Executive of the Year by Association TRENDS, a national trade publication. The award recognizes Ryan's leadership, including effective advocacy on critical military issues such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, military pay and force levels, and meeting the health care needs of military and VA beneficiaries. Ryan also was recognized for hosting well-attended symposia that explored solutions on key military issues, and for providing more than \$9 million to military children in the form of scholarships and grants.

Letters to the Troops 2009

The Silver Strand Chapter MOAA sponsored the “Letters to the Troops” project for the eleventh year in a row. Coronado schools participated this year and wrote almost 600 letters that were sent to deployed Sailors and Marines from the local area. Young students from the Early Childhood Development Center also created over 50 pictures for the troops. We have seen this program expand year after year as students from kindergarten to high school expressed their support and thanks to deployed uniformed service men and women. This year’s letters were particularly difficult to judge due to the quality of each one of them. As usual, board members who read and rated the letters were impressed with the ability of students at each level to express their appreciation and concern for military members who are in harm’s way. The Board selected first and second place winners from each school and awarded them \$25 book gift certificates for 1st place and \$20 for 2nd place. Coronado Middle School received a \$50 donation for writing the largest percentage of the total letters. Reading and judging these letters was a rewarding experience for those who participated. All letters submitted were immediately delivered to ComNavAirPac where they were flown to deployed sailors and Marines. Winners from each school are:

Christ Church Day School: First Place, Camilla; Second Place, Joe

Silver Strand Elementary School: First Place, Gabi; Second Place, Aspen

Coronado Middle School: First Place, Katie; Second Place, Nanci

Sacred Heart Parish School: First Place, Ninett; Second Place, Adrian

Coronado High School: First Place, Selina; Second Place, Liz

The winner’s letters were published in the Coronado Eagle Journal on December 23, 2009

Web Sites You Can Use

Military Officers Association	http://www.moaa.org/
Defense Accounting and Finance Service	http://www.dfas.mil/
United States Senate	http://www.senate.gov/
United States House of Representatives	http://www.house.gov/
California State Legislature	http://www.legislature.ca.gov/
City of Coronado	http://coronado.ca.us/
Navy Medical Center San Diego	http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcscd/
Express Scripts, TRICARE Pharmacy	http://www.express-scripts.com/
TRICARE Online Options Wizard	http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/
Medline Plus, U.S. National Library of Medicine	http://medlineplus.gov/
US Department of Veterans Affairs	http://www.va.gov
California Department of Veterans Affairs	www.cdva.ca.gov
The United Veterans Council of San Diego	www.sduvc.org
Space A Travel, Air Mobility Command	http://www.amc.af.mil.amctravel.
The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation	www.flyingleathernecks.org

Operation Courage is Beautiful

MOAA chapter members, answering an e-mail call, donated cosmetics and toiletry items for “Operation Courage is Beautiful.” MOAA, Avant Garde (ladies auxiliary to the Armed Services YMCA) and VFW Post 3787, and others joined forces in “Operation Courage is Beautiful” to send items to female soldiers in Afghanistan. Kathy Prout, Silver Strand MOAA Auxiliary representative, helped to gather Coronado donations, and also helped with the packing these gift bags, representing both MOAA and Avant Garde.

Volunteers packed shampoo, conditioner, sun block, lipstick, face creams and body lotions and pedicure items for sore boot damaged feet, and other items in beautiful organza bags which the soldiers can carry to the shower and hang up to dry. We received wonderful donations of lotions, soaps, air fresheners, make up, Starbucks coffee and some technology items for use with iPods and other items

These items are not available and are needed by our female soldiers. So far we have packed 340 organza bags, full of quality products totaling 1,497 pounds including 250 pounds of donated books that were distributed to the Naval Hospital Balboa, the SD Veterans Hospital and the Veterans Home in Chula Vista.

We have already distributed 164 of the gift bags to Afghanistan and to servicewomen recovering at the Naval Hospital Balboa.

More bags will be packed and sent in February and March with a military chaplain who is inbound to Afghanistan and who volunteered to help take our bags over to the troops.

Monetary donations to help cover the cost to mail these packages are still needed. If you care to help out, send your check to ASYMCA, 3293 Santo Rd, San Diego, CA 92124. Make your check to ASYMCA with a memo for “Operation Courage is Beautiful.” We have received enough items to ship. We need funds to pay for the mailing and packaging expenses for the next shipment.

The following is an example of one of the notes of special thanks we have received:

*Dear Folks - Today I received the best package! I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciated the contents. I get lots of mail. But this was the nicest I received since arriving in Kandahar. The quality of items was just incredible. I may be a Soldier but I am all female and I know good stuff. Clinique make-up!!!! OMG!!! I went back to my little living area and just cried. You have no idea how something such as this made me feel so special. Thank you. Thank you.
Phyllis Evans*



Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Dinner Meeting

Date: Monday, February 15, 2010

CAPT Robert D. White, USN (Ret), President, Veterans Home Support Foundation

Where: Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way

When: 1800: Social Time

1845: Dinner

1930: Program

*Prime Rib w/ Creamy Horseradish Au Jus & Twice Baked Potatoes, or
Grilled Salmon w/ Creamy Lemon Dill Sauce & Wild Rice, or
Vegetarian Plate - Portobello Mushroom w/ Chardonnay Sauce
Pear & Cranberry Spring Salad Mix, grilled vegetables, desert, rolls, coffee, tea; \$30 per person*

Use the coupon below for:

- February 15 Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2010 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC & Naval Sea Cadets
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

Chapter Meeting Monday, February 15, 2010

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 February (Firm)**

Indicate your choice (s) of entrée _____

Number attending dinner ____ X \$30 = \$_____

2010 Dues (\$10 for members) (\$5 for Auxiliary) \$_____
(\$40 for 5 years) (\$20for 5 years)

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

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$_____

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____



Silver Strand Chapter Board of Directors

President	Bob Butcher, MajGen, USMC, (Ret)	435-6979
First Vice	Nancy Owen, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-0542
Second Vice	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret)	409-9505
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Newsletter Editor	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
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Chaplain	Tom Johnson, CAPT, USN (Ret)	435-3408
TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-6689
Auxiliary Liaison	Kathleen Prout, Auxiliary	435-6623
Past President	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077

Dates to Remember 2010

Chapter Meetings

February 15
April 19
June 21
August 16
October 21
December 7

Board Meetings

March 16
May 18
July 20
September 21
November 16

SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter
 Military Officers Association of America
 P. O. Box 180043
 Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL