

SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

October 2010

Presidents Message MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC (Ret)

I received word last month that our chapter has once again been selected as a “**Five Star Level of Excellence Chapter.**” This designation marks the fifth straight year that the Silver Strand Chapter has been certified as **one of the very, very best chapters in MOAA.** That hard earned designation is a fitting tribute to the work of the volunteers that comprise your board of directors and to your support by maintaining your membership and support of the chapter

Captain Yancey Lindsey gave us a very interesting rundown of all the activity of Navy Base Coronado at our August 16th dinner meeting. He is a wonderful speaker with a powerful message of progress for “our” bases.

Our October dinner meeting will be hosted by the Coronado Council of the US Navy League. They have arranged a great program, featuring Captain Ken Ireland, the Commanding Officer of the Coronado High School NJROTC unit. You may remember that our chapter was instrumental in getting this

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CAPT Ken Ireland Senior Naval Science Instructor CHS NJROTC will address the Chapter and Navy League at the October Joint Dinner. Capt Ireland was designated a Naval Aviator in July 1982. After completing training in the SH-2F LAMPS helicopter, he was assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 35, where he deployed to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. Following this tour he transitioned to the SH-60B LAMPS MK III “Seahawk” helicopter and served in HSL 40. In 1989 he was redesignated a Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) Officer. In 1991, he reported to the staff of Commander, Helicopter Wing Reserve, at NASNI and served as HSL Program Manager and Safety Officer, after this tour he returned to HSL 94 as Squadron Officer in Charge. He assumed command of Navy Operational Support Center NI in August 2007 and in January 2010 he relinquished command and retired from the Navy.

See Page 7 for more information on Chapter dinner *Thursday, 21 October*

Legislative Update

Congress' Punt Sets Up "Quintuple-Witching November" Congress punted on funding the government for the new fiscal year – passing a continuing resolution to keep the government running until December 3 and skipping town to campaign for re-election.

That follows their previous punts on the FY2011 Defense Authorization Bill and extension of Bush-era tax cuts.

Which means legislators will still have all of those tough problems on their plate when they return for a lame-duck session in November.

Not only that, but they'll have to come up with a way to avoid a catastrophic 23.5% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors that will happen December 1 unless Congress changes the law - with an additional 6.1% cut looming on January 1.

And let's not forget the President's deficit commission is scheduled to report on December 1 concerning the various kinds of ugly options Congress will have to choose from to address the spiraling national debt.

Once they experience "quintuple-witching November", some who got re-elected may wonder if they really came out the winners – especially if the lame ducks decide to punt again...and set up "sextuple-witching January."

New Life for Concurrent Receipt Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) has introduced S. 3793, the Job Creation and Tax Cuts Act, which breathes new life into concurrent receipt for this year.

The Act is fully paid-for legislation that includes the Administration's proposal to phase out the VA disability pay offset for all Chapter 61 (medical) retirees, regardless of years of service, whether the disability was combat-related or not.

The bill also would close tax loopholes for wealthy investment fund managers and large corporations and

cut taxes for families paying college tuition, state and local taxes, and property taxes.

Congress elected to delay action on tax cut legislation until after the election. It's uncertain whether it will be addressed during the lame-duck session, but that's Sen. Baucus' plan.

Congress' Non-SBP Priority of the Week Year after year, MOAA and The Military Coalition have pushed Congress to end the unfair deduction of VA survivor benefits from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for survivors of servicemembers who died of service-caused conditions. Under current law, many of these widows are left with annuities of less than \$14,000 a year.

Legislation to correct the problem has gathered 347 bipartisan cosponsors in the House – almost 80% of all U.S. representatives.

So why isn't it getting fixed? Year after year, Hill leaders' answer is the same, "We agree the fix is needed, but just can't find a way to pay for it."

This week, by a vote of 268 to 160 (with far fewer supporters than the SBP fix supposedly has), the House passed H.R. 847, which would provide free monitoring and health care for people with medical conditions deemed related to the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. The cost of H.R. 847: \$7 billion, the same cost as the military widows' SBP fix.

How would Congress pay for it? By limiting the ability of foreign-based companies to use tax treaties to shift income outside the United States and avoid higher tax rates.

MOAA certainly has no problem with taking care of first responders and others sickened by toxic chemicals at ground zero in New York.

But it certainly begs yet another question why Congress keeps stiff-arming the widows whose military sponsors actually died from service-caused conditions.

MOAA doesn't intend to let them off the hook.

Joint Navy League/Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Dinner



CAPT Yancy Lindsey, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado was the guest speaker at the August 16 joint dinner at Coronado Yacht Club. He gave an interesting talk on the scope on Naval Base Coronado's mission and the DOD economic impact on the San Diego region. He reviewed the ongoing operations at the eight geographically separated locations under his command including issues such as physical improvement to the facilities, environmental stewardship and energy conservation. The DOD injects \$26.5 billion annually into our region and accounts for 23 percent of all San Diego jobs. In 2010 military construction expenditures were \$2.3 billion representing 15,500 jobs. Civilian and military personnel in San Diego County total 140,000 in 2010. CAPT Lindsey took questions from an enthusiastic crowd after his presentation.

Naval Medical Center San Diego Notice YOU can prevent the FLU!

Influenza (also known as the "flu") is caused by a contagious virus that affects the nose, throat and lungs. It is different from the common cold. Typically influenza causes mild illness, but in some people it can be serious or fatal. The most effective prevention against influenza is vaccination.

Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) will begin receiving the flu vaccine soon, with the majority of vaccine is scheduled to arrive in October and November.

Call the NMCS D Flu Hotline at 619-532-5FLU for the latest information about flu vaccine availability and vaccination hours at NMCS D clinics.

TRICARE beneficiaries, including active duty personnel, can also receive flu vaccination at no cost at participating TRICARE retail network pharmacies. Active duty personnel that use this option must take the pharmacy documentation back to their command for entry in readiness databases. For more information about the Tricare retail pharmacy option: <http://www.tricare.mil/flu/flucoverage.aspx>

Elective Office Candidate Veterans Issues Forum

The United Veterans Council of San Diego County is planning a forum about veteran's issues **on Friday, 15 October**, beginning at 1800 at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center. All candidates for elective office for the US Congress, CA State Assembly, and City council will be invited to participate. All veterans and friends of veterans are invited to attend. I hope you will plan to attend in order to learn about the candidate's perspective on veteran's issues. More information on the forum will follow. Please save the date.

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outstanding unit assigned to Coronado. I was convinced that the unit would excel, but I must tell you they have exceeded my very high expectations.

In order for our chapter to continue to receive National MOAA acclaim, we need you to step forward and volunteer to serve on our board of directors. We've done very well in the past, but we can do better with fresh faces and new ideas. If you are interested in serving, please call a member of our nominating committee (listed below) and throw your hat in the ring. (I know there is a natural reluctance to volunteer for anything, but I'll guarantee that you'll enjoy the experience of serving with like minded former/retired officers committed to bettering the life of current or retired military personnel of all ranks.)

We are seeing pressure build to do something about our country's unsustainable budget deficit. I don't know where those pressures will lead, but I'm more than ever convinced that the number one target for many legislators will be the defense budget. These pressures make your membership in our chapter and National MOAA more important than ever! As I've often said, numbers of members we represent are the primary factor that lets our voice be heard.

Finally, I urge all of you to take the time to educate yourself regarding the candidates and issues that are on the ballot and vote on November 2nd. It's your right!

Warm personal regards, Bob Butcher

Five Star Level of Excellence Winners Announced



Three San Diego county chapters were just announced as "Five Star Level of Excellence" award winners, recognizing them as the "best of the best" MOAA chapters. Pictured here are those chapter presidents. From left to right: MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC, Ret (Silver Strand Chapter); CAPT Elsa Ang, USN, Ret (Miramar Chapter) and CWO-4 Oscar Garcia, USN, Ret (Sweetwater Chapter). *(Photo by GlennTyson)*

The five star designation means that our chapter has been judged to be one of the very best chapters in the country.

Attention All Members We Need You

Brigadier General (USAR, Ret) Wayne Hoffmann has been named as the chairman of this year's Nominating Committee. General Hoffman has selected Captain Jim Cahill, USNR, Ret and Colonel Jim Strickland, USAF, Ret as members of his committee. If you are interested in serving on the chapter board of directors, please contact a member of the committee.

Wayne Hoffmann – 619.522.0031

Jim Cahill – 619.435.8077

Jim Strickland – 619.435.6608

Mar Vista High School NJROTC News

The Mar Vista High School NJROTC sent four cadets to sailing academy with a scholarship provided by the Silver Strand Chapter MOAA 2010 donation to the unit. The sailing academy was held in June at the Naval Base Coronado Fiddlers Cove Marina. The Cadets awarded the scholarship were: Donovan Jacobsen, Vausch Graves, Mariko Nakawatase and Celina Quezada.

Cadet CPO Gregg Bruce was presented the 2010 "MOAA Outstanding Cadet Medal" at the awards Day in May. As an 11th grader last year Cadet Bruce was a key member of the Armed Drill Team and Physical Fitness Team. Those drill teams took Overall 1st Place at two drill meet hosted by La Harbra and Orange Glen NJROTC Units. Bruce was also on the Unit Blood Drive team that conducted four blood drives and collected over 400 units of blood. This was the most blood collected by any high school in San Diego County. As this year Master of Arms, Cadet Bruce will oversee many of our community service events such as Surfdown and Superfrog/Super SEAL Triathlon, Silver Strand Marathon and the Imperial Beach City wide clean up.

The Neptune Olympics was held out of Fiddlers Cove on 18 September. This event is designed to maximize the cadets' exposure to different aquatic craft with a low transportation expense. Each unit team was composed of seven cadets with a minimum of three female cadets on each team. The aquatic race categories included two double kayak races, a three cadet 10 foot surf board race, seven cadet inflatable boat races and a seven cadet group lifejacket swim race. Over 30 teams from Southern California NJROTC units raced in all events.



Coronado High School NJROTC News

Coronado Islander Company NJROTC Seniors Celebrate earning a forth consecutive "Distinguished Unit Award" in May. Pictured left to right are senior cadets: Nick Armstrong, Caroline D'Amico, Cameron Moreno, Kimberly Kitchener (Islander Company CO), Robbie Cattell, Philip Lozier, Lance Lowenberg, Alicia Esquivel and Lihui Wang.

Cadet LT Lance Lowenberg was the recipient of the 2010 "MOAA Outstanding Cadet Medal". Cadet Lowenberg (*third from right in blue sweater and combination cover*) was a four year participant in the Navy Junior ROTC program at Coronado and rose through the ranks to become "Islander Company" Executive Officer in the fall of 2009. He was actively involved in all facets of Islander Company, including participation in the drill teams, leading several community service projects, and leading several departments before his selection as XO. He also enjoyed preparing cadets for our annual military ball. An accomplished ballroom dancer, he provided lessons for the cadet company the week prior to our annual gala. Cadet Lowenberg graduated from Coronado High School in June, 2010 and is currently enrolled at the University of California at Santa Barbara, pursuing a degree in Oceanography.



THE 21st ANNUAL MILITARY WOMEN'S LUNCHEON



Date: **Saturday, October 30, 2010**

Time: 1100-Social Hour/No host bar

1200-Luncheon

1300-Program

Place: Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar Officer's Club

Deadline for reservations: **Wednesday, October 20, 2010. No walk-ins will be accepted.**

For additional information contact: Toni Lopez (619) 462-6081

_____ (detach and mail) _____

Name(s) _____

Branch of Service _____ World War II Veteran _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

No. of reservations _____ @ \$25.00 per person= Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Military Women's Luncheon

Mail to: Toni Lopez

4950 Treasure Drive

La Mesa, CA 91941

Joint Silver Strand Chapter MOAA /Coronado Navy League Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2010

CAPT Ken Ireland, USN (Ret), Senior Naval Science Instructor CHS NJROTC

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:

- October 21 Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2010 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC & Naval Sea Cadets
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

Chapter Meeting Thursday, October 21, 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, Monday, 18 October (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)	298-7888
First Vice	Nancy Owen, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-0542
Second Vice	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret)	409-9505
Secretary	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Treasurer	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN (Ret)	424-6365
Air Force Rep.	John Stihl, Maj Gen, USAF, (Ret)	435-4155
Army Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG (Ret)	435-7400
Marine Rep.	Fred Allega, Col, USMC (Ret)	429-4282
Navy Rep.	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
Legislative Chair	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
Newsletter Editor	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Personal Affairs	Joan Thomas, CDR, USN (Ret)	435-3812
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

**October 21
December 7**

Board Meetings

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