

SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

April 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BG Wayne W. Hoffmann, AUS, Retired

By the time this is published, communicated, and in your hands, I will have gone to Washington D.C., as a national board member of MOAA, and participated in the annual board meeting, sat with the scholarship fund committee to determine beneficiaries of the scholarship fund (a loan to qualified students who pay it back after graduation), met with a writer of *The Officer* to explore the role of the Chaplain in today's military and in and for MOAA, called on members of Congress concerning a number of bills pending re: benefits for survivors and veterans, and celebrated leadership on "The Hill" at an awards dinner.

All of this is pressed into three long days. The weather ranges from cherry blossoms (early this year) to snow. Over 100 representatives from across the country will participate. This is the occasion when you are assured that your oar is put into the water and your benefits are being fought for, both to be

Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Legislative Update
- 3 Membership, Military Records, Veteran's Home Golf
- 4 Pres Message (cont), The Wall, Name tags, New Members
- 5 CHS NJROTC Islander Company
- 6 Crilly/Hoffmann Discussion, Memorial Day, Identity Theft
- 7 April 27 Dinner Reservation Form

Mayor Smisek To Speak April 27



Mayor Tom Smisek, Silver Strand Chapter member, was first elected to the Coronado City Council in 1992. He was elected Mayor in November 1996, reelected in November 2000, and again in November 2004. Mayor Smisek was born in Pensacola, Florida and came to Coronado with his family in 1960. He graduated from Coronado High School in 1962. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the United States Naval Academy, and a Masters degree in Management Science from the United States International University. From 1966 to 1972, as a fighter pilot for the Navy, he flew combat missions in Vietnam from the USS Bon Homme Richard aircraft carrier, graduated from TOPGUN, and was an instructor pilot. In 1973, Mayor Smisek continued his career as a Naval Reservist, culminating in three Commanding Officer tours. He retired from the Navy Reserve in 1992 as a Captain. Mayor Smisek recently retired as an airline Captain from Delta Air Lines.

See Page 7 for more information on 27 April Chapter dinner

Legislative Update

MOAA Legislative Goals for 2006

Health Care

- Fully fund the Defense Health Program
- Protect against health benefit cuts and cost shifting to beneficiaries
- Upgrade TRICARE to attract more providers and reduce administrative burdens
- Upgrade seamless health care coverage options for National Guard and Reserve members
- Fix Medicare/TRICARE payment rate formula to promote provider participation
- Ensure a broad TRICARE pharmacy formulary
- Authorize pretax payment of health, dental, and long-term care premiums
- Improve seamless transition efforts and cooperation between the DoD and the VA
- Provide full funding for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system

Retirement/Survivor Issues

- Preserve full-inflation, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
- Eliminate the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)
- Authorize full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation
- Accelerate effective date (currently Oct. 1, 2008) for 30-year, paid-up SBP coverage
- Authorize concurrent receipt for medical retirees with less than 20 years of service
- Resume DIC payments for qualifying widows who remarry after age 55
- Reform the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)

Active/Reserve/Force Issues

- Increase active duty, Guard, and Reserve force sizes (end strength) to match missions
- Restore full military pay comparability with private sector
- Upgrade Guard and Reserve personnel compensation programs to reflect today's missions
- Authorize pretax payment of out-of-pocket

health and dependent care expenses

- Strengthen financial, legal, and reemployment protections for mobilized Guard and Reserve forces
- Ensure proper family support facilities are available at bases with changing populations
- Raise relocation reimbursements to cover members' costs for government-directed moves
- Reform government travel credit card program to reduce risk-shifting to members
- Consolidate Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) programs and tie benefit levels to cost of education

Military Health Care Fees The Department of Defense is proposing large hikes in health care fees for military retirees - increases of more than \$1,000 per year in some cases - on the basis that military coverage is "very rich" compared to civilian plans. Retail pharmacy co-pays would be increased by 67% for all beneficiaries, including active duty/Guard/Reserve families. Currently serving members who will spend a career in the military stand to lose the most on this issue, because they would pay more years of increased fees than any other group - despite the extraordinary personal and family sacrifices they're already enduring for our country.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff are endorsing these fee increases, saying the budget savings are needed to help fund weapons and other needs.

MOAA has published a new brochure titled "Premiums Already Paid - In Full" that they will be taking to Congress. It's subtitled, "Why the administration's plan to tax military retirees for health care is unfair and unwise - and what the better options are."

Beware of myPay Look-alike Web Sites The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is alerting members of the military community about copycat and look-alike Web sites that might mislead people into thinking they are accessing the myPay Web site. While these Web sites may be legitimate, they are not affiliated with DFAS and myPay in any way.

Silver Strand Chapter Membership Report

In January 2005 your Chapter had 154 members. After several membership drives spearheaded by MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC (Ret), our current membership has grown to 195 members of which 22 are Auxiliary members. This increased in membership gives us a stronger voice as we work on issues important to each and every one of us.

One area we need to work on is improving timely payment of dues. We currently have 77 members who are delinquent on their 2006 dues. If your mailing label has the year 2005 beside your name, you have not paid your 2006 dues. Please use the form on Page 7 to correct that oversight and mail them in today. Thank You!

MILITARY RECORDS

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following website for veterans to access their DD-214 online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his or her DD-214 for employment purposes. Please see the details below.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) made it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the online web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

Veterans and next of kin may access this application at the website above. Please share with Veterans and their families. Keep a copy for family records.

Veterans Home Golf Classic -- Monday, April 10, 2006

Admiral Baker Golf Course The North Course (Friars Rd at Admiral Baker Rd)

Come support the residents of the Veterans Home in Chula Vista and enjoy a day of golf and camaraderie with your friends and fellow-supporters of San Diego's military Community

Join us for a BBQ lunch before the round at 12:00 noon, Shotgun Start at 1:00 Registration/practice tee opens at 11:00

A light dinner and awards ceremony will follow the round

Foursome Sponsorship \$600; Hole Sponsorship \$150; Individual Entry Fee \$150

Prizes will include a new Jeep Grand Cherokee for the "HOLE- IN- ONE" winner, and a sealed bid drawing/raffle for two round trip tickets to anywhere in the Continental United States.

For information contact: John Smith (619) 205-1406

Mail Application to: Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation

Attn: John Smith, 700 East Naples Court, Chula Vista, CA 91911

sustained, protected, and guaranteed.

We all know the tremendous competition for dollars in the midst of the War on Terrorism. But..."LEST WE FORGET", it now is your sons and daughters who are on the front for freedom and security...we've been there, done that, and are being honored for having done so. Our government recognizes this with our retirement benefits. But they must be secured and provided for the next generation. That is what "Storming the Hill" is all about.

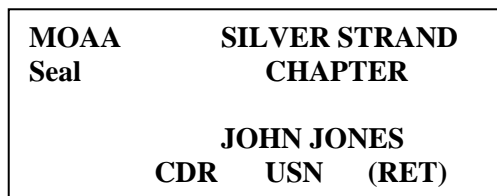
Wayne W. Hoffmann

The Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall Experience

The Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall Experience, a 240 foot, 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. is coming to our community. It will be at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center (former Navy Hospital Chapel) at 2115 Park Blvd. from May 5-May 7, 2006.

MOAA Nametags Available

Members can order a nametag for you and your spouse with the MOAA seal in the upper left-hand corner for \$7.50. Use the form on Page 7 and print your name exactly as you would like it spelled. Include your rank and service. The standard your Chapter has chosen is depicted below.



New Silver Strand Chapter Members

Frank J. Dorsey, COL, USA, Ret
Marvin Heinze, Capt, USN
Michael J. Woiwode, CAPT, USNR, Ret

Welcome Aboard

Islander Company Shines on Annual Inspection

Thursday, February 23, was the biggest day of the year for Coronado High School's NJROTC unit, better known around campus and town as Islander Company. Each of the Navy's JROTC units is required to undergo an annual inspection by higher command to determine if they are being good stewards of Navy funding and to verify JROTC guidelines and curriculum are being followed. Because there are so many NJROTC units nationwide, units only see their actual Navy Area Manager every other year. In the "off year" a local active duty navy officer is asked to act in lieu of the area manager. This year Captain Robert Moore, currently assigned to COMNAVAIRPAC, was asked to come and take an in-depth look at Islander Company.



C/LT Arwood takes charge!

In addition to a personnel inspection on every cadet, Captain Moore also received a formal briefing from the Islander Company cadet staff. Captain Moore was briefed by Islander Company C.O. C/LT Shanan Arwood, her Executive Officer C/LTJG Kyle McArthur, her Command Senior Chief Petty Officer David Foy and her three department heads – Operations Officer C/ENS Justin Schritter, Administrative Officer C/ENS Ashlee Houston, and Supply Officer C/ENS Richard Aguirre. In their Service Dress Blues, these senior cadets made a 45 minute presentation that both awed and educated Captain Moore. Post inspections remarks revealed that Captain Moore was thrilled by the professionalism of the brief and the impressive manner in which the cadets were able to clearly state their message. Captain Moore then conducted an in-depth inspection of Islander Company's personnel records and Supply Room. It was clear that the three department heads had actively pursued their duties over the course of the first semester

for any discrepancies found were minor and corrected on the spot.

Finally, it came time for the big event of the day, the ceremonial pass-in-review. The mid-afternoon event opened with an impressive "march-on" of nearly 90 cadets. This was followed by an exacting armed/unarmed exhibition drill routine which easily conveyed to Captain Moore that Islander Company had significantly upgraded their drill teams since the last inspection. Next Captain Moore took time out of the ceremony to recognize the day's most outstanding cadet's from the morning's personnel inspection. The following cadets were recognized with Exemplary Personal Appearance ribbons:

1st Platoon: C/CPO Philip Espe and C/PO3 Jennifer Christianson; 2nd Platoon: C/SA's Francisco Heredia and Jamesha Howard; 3rd Platoon: C/PO2 Maryanna D'Amico and C/PO3 Jackson Hummendorf; 4th Platoon: C/PO3's Alicia Christianson and Andrew Stanley; 5th Platoon: C/SN Jacob Landers and C/SA Ashley Perwich. C/PO3 Kristian DeLaurentis was recognized with a medal for having the unit's most outstanding male uniform. C/SN Ariana Pybus received the award as most outstanding female. The day's most outstanding Platoon Leader award went to C/ENS Sarah Fischbeck.



Islander Co. passes-in-review for Captain Rob Moore.

The highlight of the day was the precision pass-in-review led by C/LT Arwood. She and her platoon leader's precise control of their formations led to a memorable event and one which would rival any parade put on by active duty Navy personnel. The day was best summarized by Captain Moore when he remarked that his bellwether for the inspection was an answer to the question "Would I want my own kids to be part of Islander Company?" To which he responded, "Absolutely, any parent should be thrilled and proud to have a student enrolled in Islander Company."



Ch (BG) Wayne W. Hoffmann, AUS (Ret) and Alice Crilly conducted a dialogue addressing preparation for the death of a spouse. Alice related her personal experience as she and Gene discussed the eventuality of one of them pre-deceasing the other and their desires. They openly addressed health issues, wealth management, protection of their assets, legal actions to include gifts to charity, beneficiaries, and end of life decisions. After death issues include the personal -- knowing what you want for a service; physical -- where is the committal to take place; financial -- establish trustees;

spiritual and intellectual -- develop a support group. Wayne talked about the support services available through MOAA and local retired military activity offices. He made available a MOAA publication "Help Your Survivors Now, A guide to Planning Ahead" and other survivor checklists.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 29, 2006



The Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA, the General Henry D. Styer Post (VFW Post 2422) And the Coronado Council of the Navy League will offer a Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 29th, 2006 at 10:00 AM in Coronado's Star Park. The Guest Speaker will be Vice Admiral James M. Zortman, Commander of the Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Participants will include MCRD Marines, CHS NJROTC Color Guard, Coronado Battalion Sea Scouts, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Gold Star Mothers, and honored guests. After the service, a

light luncheon will be provided at the VFW Hall, 557 Orange Avenue. Join your fellow patriots as we celebrate our freedom and honor our fallen comrades. At the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. cut into granite is the statement: 'FREEDOM IS NOT FREE'.

DFAS and myPay Assure Customers of Personal Data Security

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service want to assure all of its customers that every precaution is taken to secure data. With "phishing" scams occurring more frequently, DFAS customers should be aware that the agency and its Web-based system, myPay, will not ask for personal or financial information by email. You should not respond to an email asking for personal or financial information even if the request looks like a legitimate request from DFAS. Identity theft using email and the internet is a serious threat.

Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to access your pay records
and to sign up for the new, e-mailed retired pay
newsletter

Joint Silver Strand MOAA /Navy League Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mayor Tom Smisek

State of the City of Coronado

Where: Coronado Cays Yacht Club

When: 1800: Social Time

1900: Dinner

1945: Program

**Entrées: Mahi Mahi or Rack of Pork
\$30 per person**

- Use the coupon below for:
- 27 April Dinner Meeting Reservation
 - Pay 2006 Dues
 - Donate to NJROTC
 - Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

Chapter Meeting Tuesday, 27 April 2006

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, 24 April OR you may contact, Joan Sadorf at:
jrs_krs0585@sbcglobal.net or call 522-0885.

Indicate your choice (s) of entrée _____

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

2006 Dues (\$10 for members, \$5 for Auxiliary) \$_____

Donation to NJROTC \$_____

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$_____

MOAA Nametag (\$7.50) \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____



Silver Strand Chapter Board of Directors

President	Wayne Hoffmann, BG, AUS (Ret)	522-0031
First Vice	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
Second Vice	Bob Butcher, MajGen, USMC, (Ret)	435-6979
Secretary	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Treasurer	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN, (Ret)	424-6365
Air Force Rep.	John Busbee, LtCol, USAF, (Ret)	437-8887
Army Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG, (Ret)	435-7400
Marine Rep.	Dave Martell, Maj, USMC (Ret)	435-9459
Navy Rep.	Nancy Owen, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-0542
Legislative Chair	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN (Ret)	424-6365
Newsletter Editor	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Personal Affairs	Carl Jennings, COL, USA (Ret)	435-1015
Chaplain	Tom Johnson, CAPT, USN (Ret)	435-3408
TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-6689
Past President	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN, (Ret)	424-6365

**Dates to Remember
2006**

Chapter Meetings

**April 27
June 20
August 22
October 17
December 5**

Board Meetings

**May 16
July 18
September 19
November 21**

SOUNDINGS

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

Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL