

# SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

August 2006

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### BG Wayne W. Hoffmann, AUS, Retired

I write this letter, having just returned from a MOAA National Board of Directors Meeting, I do so with multi-focused thoughts. The daily news cannot escape our attention and our knowledge that men and women of our armed forces are in a new form of shuttle diplomacy...from one hot zone to another. The fires of conflict throughout the Middle East are stretching the human resources of our military and civilian counterparts. MOAA has done all it can do to bolster support for the benefits to service personnel and their families. The battle between hardware and "human ware" still goes on. The challenge to all chapters is to enlist more of our brothers and sisters who have worn the uniform to help in the volume of the one Voice. Each one of us can recruit at least one other this next year. It is critical we do so. "Give Me Ten" rewards us...but we should shoot to double that. Accept the challenge.

There are also a number of other items that I would like to call to your attention. They are posted below. Please read and act where appropriate:

*Continued on page 4*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Legislative Update
- 3 Memorial Day In Star Park 2006, Prostate Screening Exam
- 4 President's Msg (cont), Membership Drive, Medicare Pt B
- 5 "Revenge In Exile" Review, Joint MOAA Chapter Luncheon
- 6 Outstanding Cadet, Women & Military, Cal-MOAA, Dues
- 7 August 22 Dinner Reservation Form

### VADM Scot McCauley, USN (Ret)



VADM McCauley attended the Naval Academy, graduating in the class of 1955. He served in Vietnam as Commanding Officer, River Assault Squadron 9, directing his fifty-two river assault boats in numerous brown water combat operations during the Tet Offensive. He was decorated with two Bronze Stars with a 'V' insignia for service in combat, as well as the Purple Heart. He completed graduate study assignments during which he earned masters and doctoral degrees in finance and economics. He served as the sixty-eighth Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy. Promoted to Rear Admiral, he assumed command of Cruiser-Destroyer Group EIGHT, commanding battle groups in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. VADM McCauley served as the Commander of Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic. Following retirement he joined a national financial corporation as Senior Vice President and Vice Chairman. He authored "Revenge in Exile", a CIA thriller sited in Mexico (page5).

**See Page 7 for more information on 22 August Chapter dinner**

# Legislative Update

Momentum Builds to Repeal Medicare/TRICARE Cuts In recent weeks, MOAA reported that current law projects a 4.6 percent reduction in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors, starting in January 2007 - and envisions much larger cuts coming in the years ahead.

MOAA has been working with the American Medical Association (AMA) and others to support legislation to reverse those cuts, which we think will only deter doctors from taking Medicare and TRICARE patients.

Momentum seems to be building among influential legislators to reverse these cuts and increase the payment rates to better reflect doctors' actual cost increases.

Although there is agreement that the payment setting formula needs to be changed, how to get there is still a topic of considerable debate. The problem, as usual, is money. Replacing all those annual payment cuts with modest increases would cost \$218 billion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

To address the matter, Rep. Michael Burgess has introduced H.R. 5866. Among other things, this bill would change the payment-setting formula to track doctor expenses rather than simply cutting doctor payments when the economy tanks, as the current law does. The new bill's method would yield a 2.7 percent increase in reimbursement levels vice the scheduled 4.6 percent cut in January 2007. While this lengthy bill has many other provisions that remain to be reviewed, the payment formula change is certainly something MOAA supports.

TMC Weighs in on Defense Bill Priorities In a July 28 letter to House and Senate Armed Services Committee members, MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC) highlighted top priorities and recommendations for resolving more than 100 differences between the separately-passed versions of the FY2007 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 5122 and

S. 2766). Top TMC priorities include:

- Barring a House-proposed 70 percent increase in retail network pharmacy copays pending a review of alternative ways to reduce military health costs in ways that don't penalize beneficiaries;
- Adopting Senate-passed initiatives to end deduction of VA survivor benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities and implement 30-year, paid-up SBP coverage as of Oct. 1, 2006;
- Supporting the House-passed 2.7 percent pay raise for active duty, Guard and Reserve troops rather than the Senate-proposed 2.2 percent;
- Providing equal TRICARE coverage for all drilling Guard and Reserve members for the same premium now available only for members mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001, as recommended by the House;
- Providing full concurrent receipt for otherwise qualifying retirees rated by the VA as "unemployable," retroactive to January 1, 2005, as approved by the Senate; and
- Adopting a Senate proposal to reduce the Guard and Reserve retirement age by three months for each 90 days mobilized to active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.

Be Your Own Best Lobbyist! During the month-long August congressional recess, legislators will be in their home districts/states meeting with constituents. All U.S. representatives and one-third of the senators are up for reelection this November, so they'll be anxious to hear your views on issues important to you. This is an ideal time for MOAA members to visit their legislators and personally make their case, as constituents, on our key issues.

The MOAA Web site has a new section to help prepare you to visit and write your legislators during August. You can locate your legislators' home offices and find fact sheets and talking points on SBP, concurrent receipt, TRICARE fees, and Guard/Reserve health care/retirement.



Vice Admiral James M. Zortman, Commander of the Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet spoke at the Memorial Day Service at Star Park on May 29. Over 450 people attended the service. Portions of VADM Zortman's memorable words are below:

"I consider it a great privilege to be with you here to mark this special day – a day dedicated to honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the defense of our nation and our allies'.

For more than two centuries, Americans have been called upon to defend the founding ideals of our democracy. On Memorial Day, a grateful nation undertakes its solemn duty to honor the proud patriots who sacrificed their lives in defense of our great nation.

Today, sailors and Marines continue to fight and bring hope in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world. This vital work is spreading the realm of freedom and advancing the cause of liberty. We are winning the war on terrorism throughout continued patience, resolve and determination. We will be victorious.

The noble sacrifices of those lost in this and other wars will not be forgotten. By giving their lives in the cause of freedom, these heroes have protected and inspired all Americans. Remember them today – their commitment, patriotism and sacrifice.

As I speak today, over 150,000 service men and women – active, reserve and national guard – are away from their homes and families. Many are tired, hot or cold, hungry and scared. but they continue to serve in harms way in places like the middle east, the horn of Africa, the Philippines islands, South America and elsewhere, fighting the global war on terror.

Some words that are inscribed on a memorial stone near the entrance to a cemetery in a far away land say it powerfully:

**WHEN YOU GO HOME  
TELL THEM OF US  
FOR THEIR TOMORROW  
WE GAVE OUR TODAY**

Those of us enjoying the benefits of living in freedom should remember those words."

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Silver Strand Chapter President, BG Wayne Hoffmann, AUS (Ret) lays a wreath stating, "In recognition of the life-giving sacrifice of the men and women who proudly served our nation and lived and died for the liberty of and justice for all, this wreath is hereby dedicated." Standing to Hoffmann's right are the Coronado Battalion, United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.



**Prostrate Screening Exams, Urology Clinic, USNH Balboa, 1300 to 2000 hours, 19 Sep 06**

*Continued from page 1*

- *Your Chapter continues to support two outstanding NJROTC units, Coronado High School and Mar Vista High School. Your continued contributions are certainly appreciated – use the form on Page 7.*
- *Be sure to see "Women & the Military" exhibit at the Coronado Historical Association. Our own Nancy Owen is one of the distinguished women represented there.*
- *If you are interested in serving on the Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Board, please let me know. We will be nominating new board members in a few months.*
- *We still have Chapter members who are delinquent on 2006 dues, please check your address label and send in your check if it shows 05 use the form on Page 7.*

I also encourage you to attend our August dinner meeting. Admiral "Scott" McCauley, a neighbor and friend of many in town, will address the Mexican-American relations issue from a "novel" point of view. Admiral McCauley has written a book and copies will be available for purchase and signing. Bring some friends. See you there.

**Wayne W. Hoffmann**



“Soundings” was selected as the First Runner Up for printed newsletters by the Military Officers Association of America for 2005. Your Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA was in competition with other Category III (75 to 199 members) chapters. The special award logo was developed by MOAA in recognition of their selection of “Soundings.” This is the second year in a row the Silver Strand Chapter has received this award. The MOAA notification letter stated: “Please pass on our sincere appreciation to Col James Strickland, USAF – Ret, for his fine efforts.”

#### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Understanding the value of chapter members to the success of their legislative agenda, National MOAA is sponsoring a membership drive designed specifically for chapters.

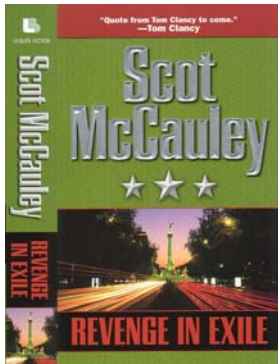
For every National MOAA member we recruit this year, they will pay us \$10. That, in turn, will permit us to provide that new recruit a free one year (through 2007) chapter membership.

Further, if you are considering changing your annual National MOAA membership to a life membership, now is the time to do it!

In order to qualify for these programs, the chapter must process the application. Contact Bob Butcher (435-6979 or by email at: [ThunderBGB@san.rr.com](mailto:ThunderBGB@san.rr.com)) for more details regarding these opportunities.

#### **Warning: Don't Cancel Medicare Part B**

If you're entitled to Medicare Part A because of your age, disability or end-stage renal disease, you're required by law to be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to keep your TRICARE benefits. Medicare-entitled TRICARE beneficiaries are covered by TRICARE for Life (TFL), a program in which Medicare and TRICARE work together. To keep your TFL eligibility, you must remain enrolled in Medicare Part B and pay a monthly Medicare premium. The Part B requirement applies regardless of whether you live in the United States or abroad. If you cancel Medicare Part B, you lose TFL eligibility.



**VADM Scot McCauley, USN (Ret)**, will be the speaker at the August Silver Strand Chapter dinner. After retiring from the Navy, he joined a national financial corporation as Senior Vice President and Vice Chairman and later served as the Executive Director of the Kyle Foundation. More recently, he was the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer at Nortel Networks. His book, “Revenge in Exile”, is described as “a brilliant first novel by a man who knows the inner workings of government and naval operations”.

“With crime lords openly challenging the Mexican government of control of the country, and an exiled former Mexican president plotting his return to power, Mexico City is a ticking time bomb – and one that an ambitious US National Security Adviser can use to his own ends. He has sent CIA Officer Elizabeth Cramer and old Navy friend Cole Palmer down to Mexico, but as the situation deteriorates and the country threatens to explode into revolution, a deadly plot could take the lives of both the US President and his Mexican counterpart. Palmer and a small, clandestine group of Navy SEALs might be the country’s only hope (Publisher’s synopsis).

Admiral McCauley will have copies of “Revenge In Exile” available should you care to purchase a signed copy.

Admiral McCauley will speak on “Mexican American Relations, A Novel Approach.” (Use Page 7 for reservations)



**ANNUAL JOINT CHAPTER LUNCHEON  
Saturday, 16 September 2006**

San Diego Chapter (Host)  
Heartland Chapter - Miramar Chapter - Pendleton Chapter  
Sweetwater Chapter – Silver Strand Chapter

Where: MCAS Miramar Officers’ Club  
Time: 1100 Hours – No Host Cocktails; 1200 Hours – Luncheon

**VICE ADMIRAL NORBERT R. Ryan, JR., (RET)  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT MOAA  
SPEAKER**

**JOINT LUNCHEON RESERVATION**

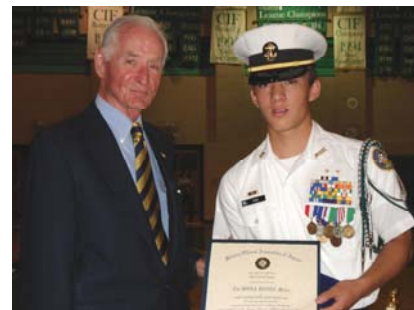
Lunch Price per Person - \$20.00 / Number Persona at \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Meal Choice with Number Attending: London Broil ( )  
Chicken Morel ( )

Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Silver Strand \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to MOAA, And Mail With This Form To:  
**MOAA, P.O. Box 84629, San Diego, CA 92138**  
Please phone/e-mail 858-442-0668 / [bmarcum@san.rr.com](mailto:bmarcum@san.rr.com)  
for later reservations or cancellations

**CAPT Jim Cahill, USNR (Ret)** awards Coronado High School NJROTC **Cadet Lieutenant David Foy** the MOAA Outstanding Cadet Medal and Citation during CHS Awards Day June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Later in June Cadet Foy went on to be named the “Area 11 Top Cadet” at the week-long NJROTC Summer Leadership Academy held annually at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA. This distinct honor did not come easily as the Leadership Academy is intended to train only the top two percent of the 9,000 cadets enrolled in NJROTC Area Eleven units which includes 59 high schools from Fresno south to the border and east to include all of Arizona. **IMPRESSIVE!**



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## ***PROUDLY SHE SERVES: WOMEN AND THE MILITARY***

The Coronado Historical Association’s newest exhibit entitled *Proudly She Serves: Women and the Military*, runs from July 11th through September 30th, 2006.

This installation chronicles the careers of women from the Revolutionary War through the current conflicts in the Persian Gulf. Women’s experiences in the military, as well as the contributions of civilian volunteers, support staff and war industry workers are presented.

Many local Coronado residents are represented in the exhibit, including Vivian Cadman Eddy (who served as a WASP during WWII), Margaret West (WWII WAVE), Toni Stewart (WWII Navy Yeoman), Sybil Stockdale (Vietnam War POW/MIA activist), Nancy Owen (Director of Nursing Services, US Navy, U.N. Protection Force Croatia), Nancy Fischbeck (US Navy aviator, 1979-2000) and others who provided personal stories and memorabilia.

Women who would like to participate in the exhibit by sharing their own experiences with the military are encouraged to contact Mary Holley at the Coronado Historical Association by email at [mary@coronadohistory.org](mailto:mary@coronadohistory.org) or by calling (619)522-8753.

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## **California Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America**

### ***CAL-MOAA Rally 2006***

**Wednesday, 25 October - Saturday, 28 October**  
**Lion Gate Hotel & Conference Center, Sacramento**

You are cordially invited to attend the **CAL-MOAA Rally 2006**. It will be much more than an annual meeting. All activities and events are open to all who are eligible for MOAA or MOAA Auxiliary membership. Being a MOAA member or MOAA Auxiliary member is not a prerequisite to attend; United States military officers - active, reserve, former, or retired are welcome. Spouses, family members and friends are welcome as well.

The intent of the Rally is to bring military officers together in the proximity of the State Capitol for a stimulating time, a variety of sports activities, a few organized tours, exhibit hall displays, parties, special events and a banquet. The guest speakers are authorities in their subject field.

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**Silver Strand Chapter has 30 members who are delinquent on 2006 dues. Check the upper right hand corner of your address label and if it lists 05, please pay your dues. Thank You.**

## Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2006

Vice Admiral William F. "Scot" McCauley, USN (Ret)

**Mexican-American Relations: A Novel Approach**

Where: Tent City in the Coronado Historical Museum Building

When: 1800: Social Time

1900: Dinner

1945: Program

**Atlantic Salmon w rice pilaf, Lemon Herb Chicken w potatoes au gratin, Sweet Italian Sausage Lasagna, Roasted Mushroom Lasagna, all w green salad & steamed vegetables, Desert (Choice of Bread Pudding or Brownie); \$30 per person**

Use the coupon below for:

- 22 August Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2006 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

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### Chapter Meeting Tuesday, 22 August 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, 18 August OR you may contact, Jim Strickland at: [jos1048@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jos1048@sbcglobal.net) or call 435-6608.

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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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
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Army Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG, (Ret)	435-7400
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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**

**August 22  
October 17  
December 5**

**Board Meetings**

**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**