

SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

February 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BG Wayne W. Hoffmann, AUS, Retired

Greetings to all of the Silver Strand Chapter members and their families. It is a "new year"...but the challenges of the past continue to be the challenges of the future. Let me personalize this a bit...this past year I had open heart surgery with a mitral valve replacement...successfully...so have many of you. But what I became conscious of...hello...was mortality.

For most of us, who are retired, or partially so, the challenge is to make the best of the rest of our lives. For those in the Silver Strand Chapter, it means supporting each other in various ways. New members, particularly younger ones, are critical to our longevity. Older members need to be aware of the needs of each other.

MOAA is an organization that truly cares about the citizen-soldiers, the spouses and families of service personnel. The Survivor Benefit Plan is always up for grabs and a challenge to

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Doctor Alice Royal Roth Crilly is the widow of CDR Gene Crilly who passed away on Sept 15, 05. She is a native Philadelphian and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. She was a research chemist at the Rohm and Haas Co., and was elected to Sigma Xi for her work on the toxicity of DDT. As graduate students, Alice and Gene shared a lab in the Towne Scientific School at Penn in 1950. They were married in 1952. When they came to Santa Monica in 1954, Alice taught chemistry and mathematics and Mount St. Mary's College in Brentwood. She continued her education until her retirement from the University of San Diego in 1995. For many years, she was a director on the Board of the McKinley Home for Boys. She is a fifty-five year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and continues to be very active in the National Society. Alice and Gene traveled extensively in retirement and enjoyed every minute of it.

The February 21 dinner program will be a dialogue between Alice and BG Hoffmann where she will share what she and Gene had done to prepare for the eventuality, and to have their legal, medical, and financial house in order. They also had agreed on burial site and funeral arrangement. In other words, they acted, rather than reacted.

See Page 7 for more information on 21 February Chapter dinner

Legislative Update

MOAA Rebutts Proposed Health Fee Increases

Proposals by the Administration would result in dramatic increases in TRICARE enrollment fees, deductibles and co-pays for retired members under age 65. In some instances, fees would more than triple by FY2009.

While retirees and families under 65 would take the biggest hit (with fees increasing by more than \$1000 for retired officers' families), Medicare-eligibles and active duty, Guard and Reserve family members also would be affected by the pharmacy copay increases.

MOAA strongly opposes this kind of cost-shifting to military beneficiaries, who already have paid premiums far larger than any civilian does - through decades of arduous service and sacrifice.

Military retirement benefits are virtually the only offset for extreme service conditions that few Americans are willing to endure for two or three decades. Reducing the military retirement benefit package is hardly a formula for sustaining long-term retention and readiness, especially when today's forces already suffer under tremendous strains.

MOAA and the Military Coalition will be making this a major legislative issue in 2006, and will work hard to educate the public on why this penny-wise and pound-foolish proposal is not only unfair to the troops, but also bad for our long-term national defense posture.

2005 Legislative Gains & Losses A partial list of legislative gains cited by MOAA are:

- Repealed 4.4% reduction in 2006 Medicare/TRICARE provider payments
- Defeated proposal to charge enrollment fee/raise prescription co-pays for VA care
- Added \$1.5 billion to FY2005 veterans health care budget
- Extended fee-based TRICARE eligibility to all drilling Guard-Reserve members

- 3.1% 2006 pay raise for Active Duty/Guard/Reserve (.5% above private sector)
- Won full housing allowance for Guard-Reserve members activated 30+ days
- Barred any further studies on commissary privatization through 2008
- Authorized limited income replacement plan for mobilized Guard/Reserve members
- Won traumatic injury disability insurance rider to SGLI
- 4.1% COLA for retired pay/SBP/disability compensation
- Minimum SBP annuity raised to 40% of covered retired pay (as of 1 Oct 05)
- Began one-year open enrollment window for SBP (started 1 Oct 05)

On the other hand MOAA cites some bitter disappointments at the end of 2005 when Congress' final FY2006 Defense Authorization Act dropped Senate-passed initiatives that would:

- End deduction of VA survivor benefits from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities when a member dies of conditions caused by service;
- End SBP premium payments for "Greatest Generation" retirees who already have paid more SBP premiums than post-1978 retirees will ever have to; and
- Provide full, immediate concurrent receipt for otherwise qualifying disabled retirees deemed "unemployable" by the VA (the House provision adopted provides full retired pay by October 1, 2009 instead).

New Silver Strand Chapter Members

Dennis Buckovetz, LtCol, USMC, Ret
James B. Giddens, Capt, USAR
William Green, CAPT, USN, Ret
William McCauley, VADM, Ret
Phil Monroe, USN, Ret
Paul T. Newport, LDCR, USN, Ret
Wayne Owen, CDR, USN, Ret
John N. Wells, CAPT, USNR, Ret
George "Zeke" Zaludek, CAPT, USN, Ret

Welcome Aboard

TAPS
Robert Davis, Col, USA (Ret)

YOUR 2006 DUES ARE (PROBABLY) DUE

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter and if an 05 appears beside your name, your chapter membership has expired. (Chapter dues are separate from National MOAA dues.)

Your membership in our chapter is very important to us, to our community and to the legislative agenda of National MOAA. Let me explain:

- Your membership is important to the chapter because it provides resources to assist our support of two Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) units -- one in Coronado and the other in Imperial Beach.
- Your membership is important to the community because it provides us the human resources to remain viable and continue our support of several initiatives – key among them the Memorial Day Service.
- Your membership is also critical to the legislative agenda of our national organization. All politics is local and legislators respond to the number of voters supporting a particular position. They know that we vote and that we influence the vote of family, friends and neighbors.

The legislative agenda will be particularly important over the next few years. Pressure on the budget is sure to create calls to reduce or eliminate hard earned benefits for retired military personnel (it's already happening) and the bow wave that's been caused by delaying the purchase of needed new equipment will create pressure to cap personnel costs for our active duty and reserve members. Again, numbers count – and we vote.

All in all, chapter membership is a real bargain at \$10.00 for regular membership and \$5 for auxiliary (surviving spouse) membership. You may use the form on page seven to pay your 2006 dues. We thank you!

keep. All families should know what their benefits are and what they need to prepare for.

Gene Crilly was perhaps the most active retiree related to military organizations that I have met. His lapel filled with pins told that story. Recently he died, after many years of faithful service to MOAA and to our nation. Alice Crilly, his widow, was a faithful partner in his ventures. She is a "survivor". She also will be our guest speaker at the February meeting. It will be broadcast as "Conversation with Alice". It will particularly be helpful to spouses and widows who may have many questions about...what happens when...

The New Year gives us an opportunity to renew our readiness for challenges ahead. Our chapter is committed to serving its members and those of our military community.

Wayne W. Hoffmann



CAPT Kathleen Bruyere, USN, Ret, Former National MOAA Board member spoke to the Silver Strand Chapter members at the December Dinner meeting and installed the 2006 Board. She chaired the MOAA Name Evaluation Committee that recommended The Retired Officers Association name be changed to the Military Officers Association of America. She presented an informative and sometimes entertaining overview of the committee's dialogue as they considered potential names and the consequences. She stated the name change has reversed the steady decline of membership by attracting active duty and drilling members of the guard and reserve from all services. In 2002, before the name change, about 24% of that year's new members were in these three categories. In 2005, it will be 38 %. We now have some 360,000 members consisting of 300,000 officers and 60,000 surviving spouses in 414 Chapters across the country and overseas. She summed up the name change project this way: we saw a problem, we tackled the problem, and the results are positive. MOAA opened new doors, built some new partnerships, tested some new ideas, and it is all paying off with new younger members.

Your 2006 Silver Strand Chapter Board from the right: President, BG Wayne Hoffmann, AUS, Ret; First Vice President, CAPT Jim Cahill, USNR, Ret; Navy Representative, CAPT Nancy Owen, USN, Ret; Second Vice President, Bob Butcher, MajGen, USMC, Ret; and Secretary, Col Jim Strickland, USAF, Ret. Board members not pictured are; Treasurer, CAPT Tom Bernitt, USN, Ret; Air Force Representative, LtCol John Busbee, USAF, Ret; Army Representative, BG Don Mayhue, ARNG Ret and Marine Representative, Maj Dave Martell, USMC Ret.



Letters to the Troops 2005

The Silver Strand Chapter MOAA sponsored the “Letters to the Troops” project for the seventh year in a row. Six Coronado schools participated this year and wrote total of 505 letters that were sent to deployed Sailors and Marines from the local area. We have seen this program expand year after year as students from elementary 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. This was a rewarding and emotional experience for those who participated. The winners from each school are:

Silver Strand Elementary School: Bailee, First Place; Jenna, Second Place

Village Elementary School: Liz, First Place; John, Second Place

Coronado Middle School: McKenna, First Place; Amanda, Second Place

Sacred Heart Parish School: Kaylen, First Place; Collen, Second Place

Christ Church Day School: Ben, First Place; Amanda, Second Place

Palm Academy: Hannah, First Place; Amanda, Second Place

Each letter started with the greeting, Dear Service Member. First place letters or portions of them follow:

I just wanted to say thanks for all the things that you have given us. You gave us freedom to do what we do in our country. I know everyone appreciates all the men and women that fight overseas in Iraq. It is sad knowing that you can’t go to see your children, wife or husband during the holidays, even their birthdays. I am very thankful that you took your time without your family to serve all the families and helpless children halfway around the world. I know that a lot of people don’t have the courage to give their life. I just wanted you to know that everyone knows that you are doing a great job and have a happy Thanksgiving, and a Merry, Merry Christmas. I hope you enjoy your letter and be safe. Thank you again for all your hard work.
Sincerely, Bailee 5th Grade

Thank you for your service to our country. I know each and everyone in our country appreciates it. Protecting us and fighting for freedom is the most important job. Risking your life and sacrificing your family time and some of the finer luxuries in life is quite brave and very difficult to do. I’m so glad you and many others help keep us safe. My name is Liz and I’m in fifth grade and I live in Coronado, a small Island off the coast of California. I’m in a combination class and I love to read and do gymnastics. Most of all I’m very glad for your help. Once again thank you for giving most everything you’ve got. A Thankful Child, Liz, 5th Grade

I would like to take this time to thank you for all the sacrifices and hard work you have given to our country. I know you must be missing home very much, but hopefully you know that we are all thinking of you and wishing you the best. Just by traveling overseas to a new and unfamiliar land is extremely brave and fighting and protecting over there is even more so. Not only have you been protecting free citizens in the United States, but I know you may also have been helping those who have been victimized by tsunamis, the recent earthquake in Kashmir, and other tragedies around the globe. By doing this you are a humanitarian ready to aid those in

need, which is a noble quality. When I wrote letters to service members when I was younger, I had no problem thanking them for all they did, but it was hard to understand quite why service members were away fighting. However, this year in my humanities class, I have learned so much about what makes America unlike any other country. We have studied democracy, and after seeing what a privilege it is to live in a democratic nation, I want to thank you for spreading the ideas of democracy to other nations, especially Iraq. I have also been learning about what the special rights of American citizens are, especially the basic freedoms of press, religion, assembly, speech, and petition (from the first amendment), and the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. All in all, I want to remind that whenever you become frustrated or lonely, just think of all the people over here rooting for you. ---- I know that all the time you have sacrificed for this country will create a more successful USA for today and for the future. With utmost thanks, McKenna, 8th Grade

I just wanted to say thanks for your courage. Without your courage to volunteer and risk your life to protect us, our country would be at the risk of losing its freedom. In all those other countries too, you are helping protect others' freedom, and I think that is so special. Many people think war is a game, but it's not, you, above all people, know that. Every day people die, some of whom you knew well, and it's sad. Our men and women risk their lives for our safety, and yet people still treat it as a minor issue. ---- On the other side of my house is the North Island Navy Base. It is a constant reminder that there are military men and women fighting for us right now when I am happy and safe at home ---- I am 11 years old and am in the sixth grade at Sacred Heart Parish School. I am a Catholic student there. I wanted to tell you that we are praying for you and all the service men and women out there and wanted to let you know, you are doing a great job. ---- You are saving lives, wherever you are, and that's just amazing how anyone can go out any day and still have faith in the hope to make a difference. ---- You are a hero, to me, and to all the other people in America. Thank you, you are really an astounding person and I pray you will continue to be one for a very long time.
Sincerely, Kayley, 6th Grade

I just wanted to say thank you for protecting our country. I am thankful for you fighting for our country. Thank you for giving up your time to be away from your family and for the sacrifices that you take every day. Wherever you are I hope you will come home safely and be with your family. My name is Ben. I go to Christ Church Day School in Coronado California. I am twelve years old and in sixth grade. In our class we are knitting blankets for the Katrina children. I play tennis and other sports. I have three other people in my family my mom, dad, and brother. I have two tortoises and pets. My tortoises are very fast and they eat a lot. I hope that you have a happy holiday with your family. Thank you once again for helping my country.
Sincerely, Ben, 6th Grade

I'm sure in a time like this, the outlook of the world is rather dim. Constant hours away from home, far from your loved ones, and the comfort of a homely bed. I used to think things were incredibly hard, being a teenager, dealing with school, and various problems with friends, but looking at the bigger picture; my life seems fairly trivial compared to what you're doing out there. The thing to remember however is that as bad as it gets, you will always have hope. Hope, a shimmering, white butterfly against a back-drop of a dreary world. Keep those images in your mind – I'm sure you know which ones I speak of – and here they are. The smiling face of a loved-one, the image of your hometown or your favorite season of the year – perhaps covered in freshly fallen snow, or littered with leaves of autumn hue. ---- Also, take pride in what you're doing, good Freedom Fighter. You are out there, on the front lines, on a ship, at a computer in a helicopter – fighting to protect the name of America. That alone is extremely noble, and I commend you from the bottom of my heart. ---- Keep the faith, stay strong, and remember to always hold your head high.
Sincerely, Hannah, 11th Grade

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Dr Alice Crilly

A Conversation With Alice Crilly, Moderated by BG Wayne Hoffmann, AUS (Ret)
“Concern for the Survivor” MOAA and Survivor Benefits

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 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:

- 21 February Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2006 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

Chapter Meeting Tuesday, 21 February 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, Friday, 17 February 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 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Only If you have not done so, please include E-mail address for Chapter records: _____



Silver Strand Chapter Board of Directors

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Dates to Remember 2006

Chapter Meetings

February 21
April 18
June 20
August 22
October 17
December 5

Board Meetings

March 21
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