



## VENICE AREA CHAPTER

# THE SHARK'S TOOTH NEWSLETTER

The Shark's Tooth Newsletter is published by the Venice Area Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.

Chapter Website: [www.venicemoaa.com](http://www.venicemoaa.com) – Recipient of Four Consecutive Communications Awards

**2009 – 2015 Recipient of the MOAA Four-Star Levels of Excellence Award**  
**2015 Recipient of MOAA Four-Star Award for Newsletter**

**JANUARY 2017**

*Happy & Healthy New Year*



### Departing President's Message

Lt.Col. Dallas L. Jensen, USAR (Ret.)

The three years I was president of the chapter were very fulfilling.

Establishing a fund for the veterans, continued support for the JROTC scholarships, working with the Young Marines, working with the Patterson Foundation as the Flag Protocol was being considered and seeing it grow, representing the chapter with Ellie Neuwirth at the dedication of the Sarasota National Cemetery and certainly representing the chapter at the ceremonies for Veterans Day and Memorial Day. I was pleased that Kevin Collins and I were able to assist in advocating for the Venice JROTC to receive a grant from the Venice Yacht Club. I attended National Conferences, state conferences and leadership conferences where I met some of the finest people I will ever meet. I am grateful to each and every one of you who gave your time to support our chapter.

Its future is in your hands. We have a great slate of officers stepping up. I encourage you to support them.

It has been an honor and privilege to be your chapter president.

**Chapter Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2017 11:30 a.m.**  
**Pelican Pointe G&CC**  
**625 Center Road, Venice**  
**Lunch may be ordered off the Menu**



### Incoming President's Message

CDR James Harrington, USN (Ret.)

I want to extend a hearty thank you to Dallas and Liz Jensen for their years of service to our

chapter. They are a remarkable couple who have worked very hard to keep our chapter up and running. Personally, I've always appreciated the goodwill and good humor they brought to any chapter function. Though they may be "retiring" from their officer positions, I am looking forward to their continued association with the chapter and wise counsel as I embark on my leadership tenure.

As I commence leadership of our chapter, job one will remain growth of chapter membership. Toward that end, I will be very interested in hearing any ideas that members may have for increasing and

maintaining membership. I also want to make a concerted effort to get the membership more involved in chapter programs such as the flag protocol program and veterans activities. Don't be too surprised if you get phone calls and emails from me seeking your help with chapter events.

Carolyn and I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to your continued chapter membership and friendship in 2017.

### **2017 Officers/Directors**

The Chapter membership has voted in a new group of Officers and Directors. They are:

#### **2017 Officers:**

President USN Cdr. Jim Harrington  
1<sup>st</sup> VP, USA Capt. Rod Dimon  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP USA 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Clifford Sasfy  
Sec/Treas. Mrs. Marjorie Loria Healey

#### **2017 Directors:**

USAR Lt.Col. Dallas Jensen  
USMC Lt.Col. Edward "Mike" Healey  
USAF Col. Vince Surwilo



### **Installation Dinner Social**

The Installation Dinner Social will be held on

**Thursday, January 19, 2017, 5:30 pm.**

The event will be held at the Plantation Golf & Country Club, 500 Rockley Blvd., Venice. The North Port High School has graciously agreed to present colors.

We welcome officers to wear their uniforms otherwise, gentlemen are asked to wear tuxedos or coat and tie; ladies "After Five" attire. FCOC Southwest Vice President Colonel Mike Borders will preside over the installation. Please find the menu and reservation form at the back of this issue.

### **Installation Officer**

Michael R. (Mike) Borders, COL, USA (Ret) spent 30 years in the Army as a Signal Officer and as a Latin American Foreign Area Officer (FAO). He served stateside at Ft Hood twice and had six overseas tours, one in Germany and the others in Latin America. Mike is a graduate of Command and General Staff College and the War College. Following his military career, Mike worked as a DOD civilian for six years at the National Defense University.

Mike retired in 2014 and got volunteered by Marc Oliveri to be president of the South Central Florida Chapter in Sebring. He is also Membership Chair for the southern half of the state, as well as area VP for the southwest area. Mike and his wife Dianne will be in attendance at our Installation of Officers on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### **2017 Scholarship Committee and Award**

Next year's Scholarship Committee will consist of Jim Harrington as Chairman and members Mike Healey, Dallas Jensen, Doug Cole and Gary Roam will assist.

The scholarship award will be given to a candidate from either North Port High School or Venice High School. The membership approved amount of \$2,000.00 will be awarded to a single applicant from one of the schools.



On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Marjorie Healey, Liz Jensen and Dallas Jensen delivered a \$500.00 donation to CJ Bannister, Director of Veterans' Affairs, on behalf of Goodwill Manasota, Veterans Services. As you may recall, CJ was our guest speaker at the November membership meeting and her

excellent presentation made the VF Committee's decision an easy one.

Goodwill will be issuing a press release on January 5<sup>th</sup> advertising the donation. If you would like more information about their outstanding program go to [Goodwill Veterans' Services](#) and at the bottom of the home page click on "Veterans Services".

**CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO JOIN MOAA NATIONAL TODAY!!!**

**[JOIN MOAA NATIONAL](#)**

### **Chapter Social Attendance**

Unfortunately, the attendance at our socials has been dwindling in the last couple of months. In November we had ten members in attendance at the recruiting social and at the December Christmas dinner there were 23. There are, of course, many obstacles wherein members cannot attend events every time they occur. However, your Chapter leadership wants to look very seriously at the possible reasons and make adjustments as needed.

It takes some effort to put these events together and it is disheartening when they fall short of attendance. Therefore, if you have a recommendation or comment regarding the time, venue, cost, etc. of our socials, please feel free to let your voice be heard. Our social chair, Rod Dimon, would be one person you can approach or any officer of the chapter. Thank you.

### **Florida Council of Chapters 2017 Leadership Forum and MOAA Symposium - Orlando, Florida**

This year's symposium is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2017 to Saturday, January 28, 2017 at the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819.

This event is open to all MOAA members. For registration information, please to [FCOC Symposium Registration](#).

**Click below to sign up for MOAA Legislative Alerts which are distributed every Friday afternoon**  
**MOAA LEGISLATIVE ALERT**

### **Legislative Issues –**



*[Courtesy of Don O'Nesky]*  
**Congress Approves 2.1% Troop Pay Raise in 2017**  
Brendan McGarry,  
Military.com, 12/08/16

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/12/08/congress-approves-21-troop-pay-raise-in-2017.html>

The U.S. Senate on Thursday joined the House of Representatives in approving a 2.1 percent [pay raise](#) next year for troops.

The upper chamber passed the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which included the pay increase, by a vote of 92-7.

The House last week [approved the legislation](#) by a veto-proof majority of 375-34. The bill now heads to President Barack Obama's desk for his signature.

The \$619 billion authorization act includes \$611 billion for programs overseen by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, including \$524 billion for base defense spending, \$68 billion for war funding and almost \$20 billion for other national security programs.

The legislation would add funding for more troops, training and munitions. It would scrap a proposal buy more fighter jets than the Pentagon requested, not require women

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to register for the draft and keep intact housing allowances for military couples.

"This bill begins a turnaround for our national security and our military, halting eight years of personnel cuts and a dramatic decline in readiness," Sen. Jim Inhofe, a Republican from Oklahoma and senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a statement.

Senate had agreed with the White House to increase troop pay next year by 1.6 percent. The House, however, pushed for a 2.1 percent increase in pay in keeping with private-sector wage growth.

By law, military pay hikes are supposed to track wage growth in the private sector as measured by the government's Employment Cost Index (ECI).

The basic pay hike in 2016 was capped at 1.3 percent, a full percentage point below the level pegged by the ECI; and in both 2014 and 2015 at 1 percent when 1.8 percent was needed to match wage hikes nationwide, according to Military.com contributor Tom Philpott.

For an E-5 with four years of service, the higher raise next year would translate into an extra \$48 a month, for a total of \$2,315 in basic pay; for an O-3, it would mean another \$117 a month, for a total of \$5,683 in monthly pay, according to a basic calculation using 2016 pay tables from the Pentagon's Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

The military pay raise applies to basic pay for troops. It is separate from the cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, for veterans, military retirees and recipients of VA disability compensation. That figure, based

on the Consumer Price Index, is set for 0.3 percent in 2017.

*For complete active duty and reserve pay charts, as well as a pay app to keep you up to date on pay benefits and news, visit the [Military.com](http://Military.com) [Pay section](#).*

*-- Brendan McGarry can be reached at [brendan.mcgarry@military.com](mailto:brendan.mcgarry@military.com). Follow him on Twitter at [@Brendan\\_McGarry](https://twitter.com/Brendan_McGarry).*



### **Chaplain's Corner**

**Rev. Liz Jensen**

#### **New Year**

*"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.*

*I will praise my God to my last breath!"*

(Psalm 104:33)

I start this New Year with a sad announcement: on November 28 we said "Good bye" to Eponine, the oldest of my felines and the mother of the other. She had turned 14 on April 29<sup>th</sup> and had been failing. She got very sick, lost even more weight, and was in liver failure. Two months earlier we had said "Good bye" to Abby.

Just a few days after thanking God for all our blessings, we thanked Him for the joy He brought through this four-footed furbaby who had such a strange name but also answered to "Mama Kitty". I cried tears of joy as I remembered the funny things she did. I cried tears of sorrow for the pain she must have experienced but kept stoically hidden in her final days. I cried tears of grief for the emptiness I felt.

With the New Year upon us we have the opportunity to remember and give thanks for our blessings. If we look, they are too many to count. The start of a New Year gives us the opportunity to remember and give thanks for how we were blessed through tough times, too.

A song heard in many contemporary church services states: "Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful, where your



streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name. Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place, though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name. Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say: Blessed be the name of the Lord. You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be Your name."

It's a challenging song to sing when mourning loss, as are those words of Psalm 104:33. It is a choice I make. I will praise my God in all circumstances all my life. Yes, even in my grief I will choose to praise my God. Grief is the price we pay for love. Love is a gift that comes in a variety of packages. If we accept the gift of love we also sign up for the grief that follows when that love is lost. However, I would rather know grief than never know love! Blessed be the name of the Lord.

As you look back at 2016, I pray you remember the blessings. I pray you will also know abundant love in the coming New Year. And I pray someone walks with you when love brings grief.

As a follower of Christ and minister in Christ's church, I highly recommend having a relationship with the One whose power is over us is great and gentle, firm and forgiving; however you may name that One. For me, that ONE is Christ, who has been a great comfort in grief. Thus do I commit to sing to the Lord as long as I live, and to praise God as long as I breathe. His unending love endures forever.

**JOIN THE VENICE AREA  
CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY  
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA**

**[CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION](#)**

**VENICE AREA CHAPTER  
2017 OFFICERS AND  
DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

**President**

***Cdr. James F. Harrington  
(41) 882-3071***

**1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President**

***Capt. Rod D. Dimon  
(941) 662-9389***

**2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President**

***1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Clifford C. Sasfy  
(941) 888-2342***

**Secretary/ Treasurer**

***Mrs. Marjorie Loria Healey  
(941) 493-3965***

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***Lt.Col. Edward "Mike" Healey  
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***Col. Vince Surwilo  
(941) 496-9282***

**CHAPLAIN**

***Pastor Elizabeth M. Jensen  
(941) 493-1420***

**Newsletter Editor, Webmaster,  
Membership**

***Mrs. Marjorie Loria Healey  
(941) 493-3965***

**CHAPTER WEBSITE:**

**[www.venicemoaa.com](http://www.venicemoaa.com)**

**MOAA NATIONAL:**

**[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)**

**FLORIDA COUNCIL OF  
CHAPTERS**

**[www.moaa.fl.org](http://www.moaa.fl.org)**



**INSTALLATION DINNER SOCIAL**

**Thursday, January 19, 2017**

**5:30 Social Hour & Hors d'oeuvres**

**6:30 Served Dinner**

**Plantation Golf & Country Club – Manor Room**

**500 Rockley Boulevard, Venice**

**Cost: \$40.00/person (Tax, Gratuity, Coffee/Tea/Lemonade Included)**

**Please make checks payable to Venice Area MOAA and mail to Marjorie Healey, 458 Sherbrooke Court Venice FL 34293 with this reservation form no later than JANUARY 13, 2017**

**Menu:**

**Mixed Greens, Strawberry, Feta, Pecans w/Poppy Seed Dressing**

**Entrée Choice of:**

- ❖ **Beef Steak-ettes with Mushroom Bordelaise, Creamed Potatoes & Green Beans w/Fried Onion Hay** OR
- ❖ **Chipotle Seared Salmon w/Margarita Beurre Blanc, Harvest Rice Pilaf Green Beans w/Fried Onion Hay**

**Dessert: Vanilla Ice Cream, Rolled in Chopped Pecans, Drizzled with Caramel & Chocolate Sauces**

**RESERVATION REQUEST FOR 01/19/17 INSTALLATION DINNER SOCIAL**

**Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

**No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40.00/person      Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Entrée: Beef # \_\_\_\_\_ or Salmon # \_\_\_\_\_ Any Food Restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE RSVP BY JANUARY 13, 2017**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND, PLEASE BRING A WRAPPED GIFT (\$10.00) FOR THE AFTER DINNER RAFFLE.**