



## 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**

### MARCH 2017



#### New Members

Chip and Debby Campbell joined the Venice Chapter during the month of February. They were recruited by Keith and Jeanne Putnam. Charles (“Chip”) Campbell was born in Mt Clemens, MI in 1954. He graduated in 1972 from Kansas City Southwest High School, and subsequently attended and graduated from the US Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD) with the Class of ’76.

Upon graduation and commissioning as an Ensign, he attended Flight School at NAS Pensacola, FL and received his Naval Flight Officer “Wings of Gold” at Mather AFB in Feb78. He then reported to NAS Jacksonville, FL, where he underwent training for the P3C Orion (ASW) aircraft with Patrol Squadron 30, with subsequent assignment to Patrol Squadron 24 for the period Jul78-Jul81. His next duty station was the Navy ROTC Unit, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) from Jul81 to Jul84, as Senior Class Instructor, Recruiting Officer, and

Aviation Officer. In Aug84, he left Active Duty, accepting a Reserve Commission and joining Ford Motor Company as a finance analyst. Chip continued his naval career, serving 17 more years in several commands, including Patrol Squadron 93 (NAF Detroit – Jul84-Mar94) and several command tours while assigned to 4 different Naval Reserve units at Selfridge ANGB (Command Tours : TSC Barbers Point, USS Eisenhower, NAS Sigonella) and Battle Creek Naval Reserve Center (XO Tour: NAVSOUTH). In Aug01, he retired as a Captain, with 25 years of service and over 3200 hours of Special Crew Time (600+ hours as P3 Mission Commander).

Chip and Debby also reside in West Bloomfield, MI, and have two sons -- Paul (LT, USN, Navy Flight Surgeon, VAQ-135, NAS Whidbey Island, WA) and Patrick (Grand Rapids – Waste Management, Inc). Welcome to the Chapter!!!

**MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:30am**  
**Pelican Pointe Country Club**  
**499 Derbyshire Drive, Venice**  
**Lunch may be ordered off the menu**

#### Venice Veterans’ Salute

On Sunday, March 5, 2017, at 2:00 pm, Catholic Charities will host a program saluting United States military veterans with a special tribute to soldiers of the Gulf War.

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The event will be held at the Venice Performing Arts Center and tickets are \$25.00. For more information, please go to [www.veniceperformingartscenter.com](http://www.veniceperformingartscenter.com).



### **New MOAA Travel Service**

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, the MOAA Board of Directors approved Brenco as MOAA's new travel partner, providing unique travel programs and services to MOAA membership.

Members can benefit from Brenco's concierge-level customer service, access to world-class destinations via cruises, resort vacations, guided tours, and military-themed trips, and best travel value.

All MOAA members are invited to visit [www.moaavacations.com](http://www.moaavacations.com), call (800) 211-5107, or email Brenco at [mail@MOAAVacations.com](mailto:mail@MOAAVacations.com) to book their upcoming adventure. There is also a live online chat to work the details on your next trip.

### **Veterans' Fund**

The VF Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. This will be the first meeting of the year to decide the amount that will be proposed to the membership for donation(s). The Committee will bring this matter for approval before the membership at the March membership meeting.



### **February's Guest Speaker**

Our February Membership Meeting guest speaker was Captain Dean Krom USMC (Ret) who is the recently hired Senior Marine Instructor for the JROTC program at Venice High School. Captain Krom gave us great insight into the new programs he would like to instill into the currently existing JROTC unit.

As you know, this chapter has for many years given scholarship awards to JROTC seniors and lately we have experienced receiving fewer and fewer applications. It was enlightening to find out that Captain Krom currently has 91 students in his unit but only 12 of these are seniors! He believes that 1-2 of these students will go to work after graduation, 2-3 into college and 8 will head into the military. He stated that he has one student in mind that would make an excellent candidate for this year's award.



### **Save the Date!**

Our guest speaker for the May 16<sup>th</sup> membership meeting will be Florida State Representative and orthopedic surgeon Julio Gonzalez. He will discuss healthcare issues and what is happening in Tallahassee. Mark your calendars!



### **MOAA ADVERTISEMENT**

MOAA Insurance Plans has a new advertising program for MOAA Councils and Chapters starting in 2017. A digital and print ready advertisement (as seen above) promoting MOAA Insurance Plans is available by request of the Chapter. In return for advertising the logo on our web site and newsletters through the end of 2017, MOAA will provide a payment of \$100.00. You can access more information regarding the many insurance plans made available by contacting the telephone number of website listed above.



### **President's Message**

CDR James  
Harrington, USN  
(Ret.)

I want to again extend a very warm welcome to Chip Campbell and his wife, Debbie, who just joined our chapter. Chip is a

former Navy aviator and a Naval Academy graduate. He and Debbie are welcome additions to our membership. Thank you Keith and Jeanne Putnam for introducing Chip and Debbie to the chapter.

We enjoyed a very nice Chapter social at the Waterfront Too Restaurant on February 16. Our turnout was excellent and it sure looked like everyone was enjoying each other's company. We do seem to get better

attendance at chapter socials when we do pot luck dinners at member homes, so expect news on plans for a pot luck soon.

Your Chapter Board met on February 21 to assess Chapter financial status and membership issues. Our Chapter is, like all Florida chapters, dealing with eroding membership and resulting financial challenges. Senior members are dying, moving away or becoming too infirm to continue membership and younger replacements, though steady, are not sufficient in number to replace all the departed. Recruitment will be job one for 2017. We are the "Venice Area" Chapter but will be a little less Venice-centric in our recruiting efforts. We will increase our recruiting efforts in Nokomis, Englewood and particularly North Port by reaching out to veterans groups in those areas to mine their membership for potential MOAA members. We will continue our participation in area veterans' events (e.g. War Birds, Memorial Day) to maintain visibility of our organization.

A decline in membership can create budget issues and we have one for 2017. We have a \$200 "hole" in our 2017 budget. To fill the hole and keep it from expanding like a Florida sinkhole, we need to keep membership up. That really is the only solution. Your board did discuss raising member dues, but we see that option as self-defeating. Our membership is extremely generous. Our veterans and scholarship funds come from the pockets of our members. Making membership more expensive won't enhance retention. A major money loser in our budget for several years has been the cost of printing and mailing the Shark's Tooth. Eliminating this expense will close the current budget hole. Therefore, effective **2018** members desiring a mailed copy of the Shark's Tooth will need to pay

\$15.00 per year for the publication. Frankly, there are no other remaining expenses to slash.

At our February 21 member meeting, we heard a presentation from Captain Dean Krom, USMC (Ret), and senior instructor at Venice High School JROTC. A former chopper pilot, Captain Krom is reinvigorating the current 91 member unit. He has plans, and is seeking funding, for a \$140,000 Marine obstacle course on the high school campus. Captain Krom explained that the JROTC program is not about recruitment but about living a disciplined life and instilling that concept in young men and women. Captain Krom is a very impressive young man and we will follow the development of his program with great interest. He was very aware of our scholarship program and expects to have at least one highly qualified candidate for the scholarship. We are currently expecting CDR Steve Bartek, USN(Ret), Senior Naval Science Instructor at North Port High School Navy JROTC to speak at our March 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter meeting.

I am still working on filling our speaker slot for our April meeting but hope to line up a representative from the Young Marines program at Venice Middle School. Florida Representative Dr. Julio Gonzalez is lined up for our May 16 meeting. He is a former Navy flight surgeon, a lawyer and author who will fill us in on life in the Florida House of Representatives. We are going to work hard on speakers for our meetings. Interesting speakers make for more interesting chapter meetings. If you have speaker ideas, let me know! Thank you for your continuing support of our chapter and I look forward to seeing more of you at our March meeting.

**Join the Venice Area Chapter today!**  
Go to [www.venicemoaa.com](http://www.venicemoaa.com) and fill out the application in the Membership section.

### Legislative Issues –

*[Courtesy of Don O’Nesky]*



#### **Lawmakers Attempt Action on 24 VA Facilities in Limbo**

Nikki Wentling, Stars and Stripes  
February 11, 2017

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2017/02/11/lawmakers-attempt-action-on-24-va-facilities-in-limbo.html>

A handful of lawmakers are again making attempts to open 24 new Department of Veterans Affairs facilities across the country, some of which have been held up by Congress for two years. The VA must receive congressional approval to lease medical facilities with annual rent payments totaling more than \$1 million, according to federal law. Combined, the 24 facilities -- most of them outpatient clinics -- would cost about \$228 million during the lease periods, which in some cases can last 20 years.

Congress has not approved a medical facility lease for the VA since 2014, said the office of Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va. Warner and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, reintroduced legislation that would give the VA the go-ahead to open the clinics. Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif., reintroduced a similar measure in the House.

One of the pending leases is for a new outpatient clinic in Hampton Roads, Va., totaling more than \$18 million. In 2014, veterans at the Hampton VA Medical Center suffered the longest average wait times in the country for primary care, the Hampton Roads Daily Press reported. The wait times resulted from an increase in the number of patients, along with space and staff shortages.

Warner, who represents Virginia in the Senate, said health care providers at the hospital need the clinic to better manage their workload.

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"Veterans deserve convenient access to the high-quality health care they have earned through their service," Collins said in a written statement. "These facilities... will allow veterans to receive outpatient care without the stress and difficulty of traveling to larger VA medical centers, which may be located far away from their homes."

One of the pending leases is an expanded outpatient clinic for Collins' constituency in Portland, Maine, totaling about \$6.9 million. A \$6.3 million clinic is planned for Oxnard, California, in Brownley's district. The facilities span 12 other states.

Last May, 15 senators wrote to Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., -- chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee -- and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., the top Democrat on the committee, asking that they act to approve the 18 leases pending at the time. The VA has also been struggling to work with Congress to gain the approvals. James Sullivan, director of the VA's Office of Asset Enterprise Management, told a House committee in September that many of the VA's 10- to 15-year leases are coming to an end. Without authorization for the new leases, some facilities might be forced to close and new ones might not open immediately, he said.

"Without authorization from Congress, VA cannot begin work to secure needed leased space to meet the needs of veterans seeking VA health care," Sullivan testified. "Failure to receive authorization will have a growing and worsening effect on veteran access to care nationwide."

At the September hearing, lawmakers voiced concern the VA had not provided proof that leasing medical facilities was more cost-effective than building their own.

VA leases haven't been approved on a regular basis since 2012, when the Congressional Budget Office changed how it estimates costs, Warner's and Collins' offices said. The Congressional Budget Office previously noted only the annual cost of the leases, but, in 2012, it began recording the total cost of the leases up front.

If the leases were approved, Congress would still have to decide each year whether to appropriate annual funds for them, Warner's office said.

Fifteen cosponsors signed onto the Senate bill, S. 233. Brownley's legislation, H.R. 90, has nine cosponsors.

Brownley also introduced legislation this session to prohibit Congress in the future from appropriating funding for a medical facility lease without also approving the lease.

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**Chaplain's Corner**  
**Rev. Liz Jensen**

**It's Not Over Yet**

Did you watch Super Bowl 51? By the time you read this, it will be old news. However, even if you are not a football fan, even if it didn't go your way, there are life lessons we can learn from this game. For those who missed it, or have forgotten it, here's a quick review: After the first half, the score was Falcons 21, Patriots 3. The announcers repeated ad nauseum that no team in Super Bowl history had ever come back to win after being down more than 10 points.

At the end of the third quarter the score was Falcons 28, Patriots 9. Many thought the Falcons had it in the bag. However, the game was not over yet.

"It's Not Over Yet" is one of my favorite praise songs. Its lyrics say: "This goes out to the heaviest heart. Oh, to everyone who's hit their limit, it's not over yet. And even when you think you're finished, it's not over yet."

Keep on fighting, out of the dark into the light. Hope is rising. Never give in, never give up. It's not over yet." The song has a great beat, too! Google it; it's the one done by "For King and Country."

In the last 15 minutes of the Super Bowl, the Patriots scored 19 points tying the score. For the first time in its history the game went into overtime. The Patriots got a touchdown: game over.

I say this no to malign or praise either team, but to point out that in life as in this game, whether you feel high and on top of the world or down and discouraged, as long as you have breath, it's not over yet.

Be cautious of fans and critics, loyalists and nay-sayers. Forecasters and visionaries are not 100% accurate. As a Christian pastor I hear Jesus' words: "My purpose is to give life in all its fullness" (John 10:10).

That praise song goes on to say, "Oh, game set match, it's time to put it in your past. Feel the winter leaving, it's redemption season. We're revived and breathing to live a life of freedom. It's not over yet. Life is the race we run, so run till the race is won. Don't you ever give up, oh no never give up. It's not over yet."

Maybe one team thought they had it made and gave up. Maybe one team was not willing to give up in spite of the odds of winning. Where are you in the game of life? We know one day life will end. While we are living we are called to live life in all its fullness. Whatever the score is in your life, don't give up. If you have breath, life is the race we run, run till the race is won; it's not over yet.

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**MARCH MILESTONES**

**Birthdays**

Lilli Roam 03/10  
Jerri Meneely 03/16

**Anniversaries**

Gary & Lilli Roam 03/17/99  
Doug & Roberta Cole 02/23  
Ronald & Janet Miller  
03/24/78  
Judy Sasfy 03/25

*Congratulations to All!!!*

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**MARCH DINNER SOCIAL**

**When: Thursday, March 16, 2017**

**Time: 4:30 pm (Happy Hour)**

**Where: Olde World Restaurant**

**14415 Tamiami Trail, North Port**

**Order off the menu, pay your own tab**

**MEMBER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL #:** \_\_\_\_\_

To RSVP, please contact Rod Dimon at (941) 662-9389 or [roddimon@verizon.net](mailto:roddimon@verizon.net) by March 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to participate in the Scholarship Fund raffle please bring a wrapped gift.

**DO YOU NEED A RIDE? Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

**HAPPENINGS IN MARCH**

**03/01 – Ash Wednesday**

**03/05 – Salute to Veterans**

**03/12 – Daylight Savings Begins**

**03/16 – March Dinner Social**

**03/17 – St. Patrick's Day**

**03/20 – First Day of Spring**

**03/21 – Membership Meeting**