



## 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**

### APRIL, 2017

#### Chapter Recruiting Program

April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the launch date for the 2017 Chapter Recruiting Program. Early in the month, national MOAA will send out annual recruiting lists that contain the names of potential members who are eligible to join a chapter. This list will serve as the foundation for our chapter's annual recruiting campaign. Jim Harrington and Cliff Sasfy will be spearheading the Venice Chapter recruiting campaign with some new flyers. Let them know if you are able to assist.

**APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
ON TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017, 11:30,  
PELICAN POINTE G&CC  
499 Derbyshire Drive  
Lunch Ordered off the Menu**

#### Upcoming Meeting Guest Speakers



##### April Speaker

Lt.Col. John Reardon  
USAF (Ret.)  
*[Courtesy Dover Post]*

A former U.S. Air Force Reserve navigator, retired Lt. Col. John Reardon accrued more than 4,000 hours flying time in four different aircraft.

In 28 years of service, Reardon says he “just flew cargo” and didn’t do anything out of the ordinary. “An engine fire may have been the most exciting thing that ever happened,” he said. The longtime Dover resident saves his accolades for those he’s put in his books.

To date, Reardon has written or co-written five books – compilations really – of stories he’s gathered from veterans. Over time, Reardon’s self-published books attracted the attention of veterans and their families as he sold them at shows. That, in turn, gave him the chance to gather more stories. *“People started bringing their stories to me,” he said. “Some had already been written in the first person, some were told verbally to me.”* The latest World War II compilation, his sixth book, is due to hit the presses this year.

You will be able to meet Col. Reardon at our April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.



##### May Speaker

State Representative Dr.  
Julio Gonzalez

Our guest speaker for the May 16<sup>th</sup> membership meeting will be Florida State Representative, orthopedic surgeon and lawyer, Julio Gonzalez. He will discuss

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healthcare issues and what is happening in Tallahassee.

### **September Speaker**



Mrs. Susan Maas-Lyons, Adjutant  
*[Mrs. Susan Maas-Lyons far right]*

Mrs. Maas-Lyons will attend our September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with some of her Venice Middle School Young Marines. Should be quite an inspiring presentation.

### **Celebrating New Members**

USAF Major Michael R. Himsworth and his wife, Susan, joined the Venice Chapter at the March membership meeting. Mike and Susan recently moved to Nokomis from Monterey, California. Mike was an intel officer in the USAF and was previously stationed at CENTCOM in Tampa. Major Himsworth has been a member of MOAA since 1994 and is a Life Time Member of National. Welcome!!!

### **Meeting Guest and Potential New Member**

We would also like to recognize and thank potential new member Bill Baldwin who attended our March meeting. Bill is a member of the MOAA Chapter at Smith Mt. Lake, VA which is a satellite of the Roanoke, VA Chapter. He served in the Navy for nearly 4 years right out of college in 1965, doing 1 tour in Vietnam as the Communications Officer aboard the USS Corry DD-817. He is in Venice seasonally for now, and hopes to make this area his new home in the future.

### **Veterans' Fund Donation(s)**

At the March meeting, the membership approved the VF committee's recommendation to allocate \$1,000.00 from the fund for a donation or donations to be

made in 2017. As of this writing, the committee has not as yet decided on a recipient but will advise Chapter members in the forthcoming May newsletter.

### **JROTC Medal Award Presentations**

The North Port High School Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. The MOAA NJROTC awards will be given to Cadets Emily Ventimiglia and Tristen Moon. The Venice High School MCJROTC awards will be handed out on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The MOAA MCJROTC awards will go to Benjamin Hughes and Madeline Pachota. Jim Harrington, Cliff Sasfy and Rod Dimon will attend these functions and represent the chapter.



### **President's Message**

CDR James  
Harrington, USN  
(Ret.)

Greetings chapter members! I hope you all enjoyed St. Patrick's Day. The very, very, busy

season has arrived in the Venice area. We all have to endure a lot more traffic, crowded restaurants and busier golf courses, and the rapid approach of Spring means we are also entering the busy season for chapter events.

We will be offering a \$2000 college scholarship to a Venice High School or North Port High School graduating senior who has participated in JROTC. One application has been received from North Port and I have been assured by Captain Dean Krom of Venice High School JROTC that an application from Venice High School is forthcoming. Your chapter Scholarship

Committee will be meeting in early April to review these applications.

We held our March Chapter social at the Old World Restaurant in North Port. We had a good turnout of twenty attendees and enjoyed a splendid evening of good food and camaraderie. It was especially nice to spend some time with Perry and Mardie Butler, long time Chapter members who are getting reacquainted with our Chapter.

Our guest speakers for our April and May Chapter meetings are now set. Lt.Col. John Reardon USAF (Ret) is an author of numerous books about World War II veterans and will join us at our April 17 meeting. Florida State Representative Dr. Julio Gonzalez, a practicing orthopedic surgeon in Venice, former Navy flight surgeon and a lawyer, will join us on May 22 to update us on legislative affairs in Tallahassee.

As we head into April, mark your calendars for our Chapter social on April 22 at the home of Rod and Lisa Dimon. Though this is a potluck event, we will be charging each couple/attendee \$15.00 to defray costs associated with the social and to supplement chapter revenue. Historically, our in-home socials have been very well attended and we hope to see many of you at Rod and Lisa's beautiful home. In the meantime, enjoy our great weather and STAY SAFE OUT THERE.

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

**JOIN MOAA NATIONAL TODAY AS A  
REGULAR MEMBER OR LIFE MEMBER**

[JOIN MOAA NATIONAL](#)

### **Legislative Issues**



*[Courtesy of Don O'Nesky]*

#### **Proposed Bill Could Ease Tax Burden on Military Spouses**

Terry Howell

January 25, 2017

<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2017/01/proposed-bill-would-ease-tax-burden-on-military-spouses/>

#### **Military Residency Choice Act allows families to establish consistent residency for tax, voting purposes**

**WASHINGTON** – Congressmen Rob Wittman (VA-01) and Darrell Issa (CA-49) introduced legislation aimed at easing the tax burden on military families by allowing them to establish one consistent state of residency.

Under current law, active duty service members are able to maintain one state of legal residency for tax purposes even when they move on military orders. Spouses may be granted the same benefit, but only if both service member and spouse have the same tax residence at the time of their marriage. This causes complications when service members move, sometimes multiple times a year, because spouses are forced to establish residency in each new location.

The Military Residency Choice Act will allow military spouses, if they so choose, to establish the same state of residency as the service member, so that for any future moves, they will retain the same state for tax and voting purposes.

“The last thing our military families need is additional stress during tax season,” Rep. Wittman said. “Allowing military families to

establish a consistent state of residency will give spouses the confidence to re-join the workforce when they move and help them better provide for their families. Our nation's military is only as strong as the men and women serving and the families who support them. Passing this simple residency fix will send a strong signal to our military families that we have their best interests at heart."

"Military families sacrifice a great deal for us all," Rep. Issa said. "They're often transferred from place to place, uprooting their lives each time they receive a change of station orders. Each transition requires difficult adjustments as they adapt to new schools, new jobs, new churches and new communities. They shouldn't be burdened yet again when tax season comes around. This bill is an easy update that will simplify tax season for military families by allowing spouses to claim the same residency as their service members. It's a simple fix, but it will go a long way to make life easier for those who have already given so much."

Despite many military families relying on two incomes, the task of keeping track of multiple tax jurisdictions can be daunting for military spouses, causing some to forego working altogether. [According to a recent report](#), military spouse unemployment could cost the U.S. \$1 billion a year due to the loss of federal income tax, the costs of unemployment benefits, and the costs of health care issues related to unemployment.

*Congressman Rob Wittman represents the 1st District of Virginia. He serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, where he is the Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee.*

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

### **Word Dremel**

The parakeet I got for my Aunt became too much for her so now he lives with me. We call him "Ringo." She does not miss him; she

does not remember him.

I enjoy his chatter as I work. He seems to talk endlessly, maybe to himself, or maybe to the critters in the world beyond the window. Maybe to me, but he faces the window so I think not!

I wonder what he is saying. I wonder even more when the chatter turns to what sounds like tirades directed at the bird in one or the other mirrors.

But, I don't know what he's saying or what he may be trying to tell me. Is he troubled or playing or ill or what? I asked the avian vet when he came to trim Ringo's maloccluded beak. It had not been done since July. I watched to make sure he was eating and drinking. Evidence in the cage suggested he was doing fine. However, too long overlooked could be deadly.

The vet used a dremel tool to realign and trim off the rough, unruly edges of Ringo's beak. I wonder if there is a dremel tool to realign and trim off the rough, unruly edges of the things we say.

Have you heard the song "Words"? The lyrics roughly declare that words can make people feel like prisoners or can set them free. Words can make people feel like criminals or kings. Words can lift hearts to new places and drag hearts back into a pit. Words can build up and break down. Words can start a fire in a heart or put it out.

How do our words impact those who hear them? What about those we speak to ourselves? Words matter. Who has not experienced words spoken with maloccluded tongue or lips? Like Ringo's beak, it's probably good to monitor such things; too long overlooked could be deadly.

I look to Scripture for guidance. It says: "*If you want a happy life and good days, keep your tongue from speaking evil, and keep your lips*

from telling lies” (1 Peter 3:10). Scripture also says, "If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are just fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless" (James 1:26).

The Apostle Paul wrote: "If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Corinthians 13:1).

Words matter. Love may be the needed word-dremel to realign and smooth the rough, unruly edges of the words that pass our tongues and lips.

My prayer for you is that you would hear clearly God's words of love for you and that love would serve as your word-dremel so that your words bring life and love to those who hear them.

Pastor Liz Jensen  
493-1420

#### APRIL MILESTONES

##### Birthdays

Paul Hollowell 04/04  
Jeanne White 04/04  
George Jonic 04/13  
Joanna Pippit 04/10  
Tony Mowry 04/15  
Clarly Lane 04/23  
Liz Jensen 04/29  
Norman MacLellan 04/30

##### Anniversaries

Cliff & Judy Sasfy 04/01/69  
Jim & Carolyn Harrington  
04/14/83  
Don & Mary O'Nesky 04/15/61  
Guenther & Marion Hennig  
04/22/1957 – 60 years!!!

**Congratulations to All!!!**

#### VENICE AREA CHAPTER 2017 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

##### OFFICERS

###### President

Cdr. James F. Harrington  
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##### 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)



**APRIL POT LUCK SOCIAL**

When: Saturday, 4/22  
Time: 4:00 pm  
Where: Rod & Lisa Dimon Home

314 Marsh Creek Road, (941) 662-9389  
(Directions Below) Cost: \$15/person

Dimon's providing Lasagna, pasta, wine and beverages. Guests are asked to bring either appetizer, salads or deserts

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

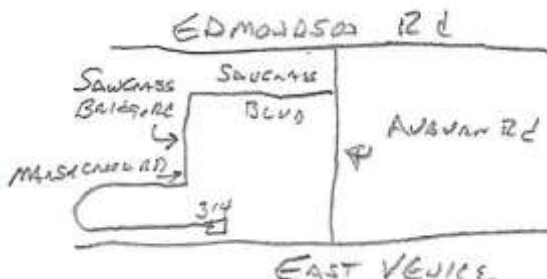
Will Bring: \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP Rod Dimon at (941) 662-9389 or [roddimon@verizon.net](mailto:roddimon@verizon.net) by **April 18<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 \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: From Auburn Rd., turn onto Sawgrass Blvd. and give the gate guard your name. Turn LEFT onto Sawgrass Bridge Rd., RIGHT on Marsh Creek Rd and follow Marsh Creek to #314. The Guard House closes at 5:00 p.m. If you cannot make it until after 5:00 do the following: Off Auburn, turn on to Pheasant Run Court. Stop before you get to the gate - do not block the gate as this is for owners. Call me on my cell phone and I will come down and let you in. Rod



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★  
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**HAPPENINGS IN APRIL**

**04/09 Palm Sunday**

**04/10 Passover begins at Sunset**

**04/14 Good Friday**

**04/16 Easter**

**04/18 Passover ends at Sunset**

**04/18 11:30 Membership meeting**

**04/22 4:30 Pot Luck Social at Dimon Home**