



Rio Hondo Chapter Luncheon Meeting, Tuesday, 25 May 2010

Los Coyotes Country Club, 8888 Los Coyotes Drive, Buena Park, CA 90621

Program: Movie: "Trains in War - Civil War and WWII"

Social Time: 1200-1230 hours Lunch and Program - 1230 hours Menu: Hank's Choices-Salad or Sandwich w/soup



Happy Birthdays!

The birthstone for the month of May is the emerald, and the flower for the month is the dainty lily of the Nile. May should be a beautiful month for Spring flowers! The following are people celebrating their birthdays in May:

18 - Alvin Foster
22 - Elaine Chin

Like we say every month - Happy Birthday to all of you and many more! And have a wonderful time with friends and family!



Happy Anniversary!

May seems to have only ONE couple who chose this month for their wedding. They are:

14 - Elaine & Sam Chin

As is our usual practice, all of us in the Chapter wish you a happy anniversary in celebrating with close friends and family and have many more years of togetherness!

"Duke" Recovering at Home":

Capt Wm "Duke" Steinken is convalescing at home now, after his multiple by-pass surgery. Cheer him up; give him a call at 714-855-2277, or send a e-card; his email is: EF10B@aol.com. Get well soon, Duke!

The Prez' Message:

from LCol John Nowlin

May is a very important month for veterans and services members. First is our celebration of V-E Day on the May 8 marking the successful close of the European Theater operations of WW II. Then we honored all members of the Armed Forces on 15 May for the continued service to this great country. Finally, we remember those who gave their life, the ultimate price, for our continued freedom on Memorial Day. We give our thanks to all those of served and are serving.

There is one other important event in May. We must pause to remember all Mothers who gave us life to love, live and serve. Our hats are tipped to our Mothers!

See you on the May 25!

Equal Representation? *Author Unk.*

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every pet, current and past.

For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, 'All girls.' This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, 'Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?' Her response, 'Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying "All Men"!

Chapter Officers & Board 2010

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1stVP: Mrs Jan Fitzgerald, Aux
2ndVP: LCdr Claude Kerr, USN Ret
3rdVP: Cdr Wylly A Moore, USN Ret
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Committee Chairs

Personal Affairs: Mr. Ray Cole
Public Relations: Mrs. Jean Robertson
Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Elaine Chin
Welfare: Mrs Barbara Rosenberg
Legislative Affairs: LCol John Nowlin

Rio Hondo Calendar:

May 25, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs

"Trains in War-Civil War and WWII"

July 10, 2010 Annual Picnic-Chins' Home
Aug 24, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
Sep 26, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
Oct 26, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
Nov 23, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
Dec 5, 2010 SW CAL-MOAA Lunch Mtg

Jan 25, 2011 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
Feb 22, 2011 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
Mar 22, 2011 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
Apr 24, 2011 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open

Legislative Update:*(Excerpts from MOAA Alerts, 14May2010)***Medicare-TRICARE Fix**

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told MOAA and other association leaders this week that House and Senate leaders have reached a tentative agreement on a five-year fix to the Medicare-TRICARE payment problem. On May 12, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and 16 other House members, including many key committee leaders, met with MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan and other association leaders to discuss military and veterans' legislative issues.

Pelosi began the meeting by announcing that House and Senate leaders have reached a tentative agreement on a fix to the 21% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors now scheduled for June 1.

She said she expects the House will vote as early as next week on a bill that would eliminate such cuts for five years, and that favorable Senate action will follow. The leadership plan is to deliver the legislation to the White House for signature by the end of May.

VADM Ryan expressed MOAA's strong support for that important initiative to address the #1 health care access concerns for America's seniors and the military community. Additional topics discussed during the meeting included needed efforts to address double-digit veteran unemployment; the overwhelming VA claims backlog; the importance of substantive progress on concurrent receipt and SBP fixes; and health care, retirement, and veteran status for Guard and Reserve members.

House Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO), expressed frustration at the ---→

Legislative Update: *(Cont'd)*

"serious challenge" his committee has encountered searching for qualifying spending offsets to act on concurrent receipt and survivor benefit fixes.

Skelton said he and other leaders are continuing to work on that and, citing the Speaker's personal engagement, hope they "might have some light at the end of the tunnel."

Admiral Ryan thanked the leadership for their continuing efforts to provide fairer pay and manpower levels (see article below), asserting his belief that too many continue to take our troops' and families' sacrifices for granted. He pledged MOAA's continuing support to find ways to address concurrent receipt, SBP, and Guard/Reserve fixes.

MOAA strongly agrees with the "three-F challenge" expressed at the meeting by Vivianne Wersel of the Gold Star Wives: "Find the Funds and Fix It!"

Pay Raise Yes, TRICARE Fee Hikes No

A key House panel has weighed in with its draft of the FY2011 Defense Authorization Bill. What about concurrent receipt and SBP?

The Military Personnel Subcommittee, chaired by Susan Davis (D-CA), met this week to craft its sections of the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5136). This is the first round in determining what Congress will approve for manpower levels, pay and benefit changes, and weapons programs for the new fiscal year. Davis opened the hearing recognizing the sacrifices that servicemembers and their families are facing as the nation enters its ninth year of war. Full details of the draft won't be disclosed ---→

Legislative Update: *(Cont'd)*

until after the full Armed Services Committee acts on it next week, but the Sub-committee did announce selected provisions, including:

- A 1.9% active duty pay raise as endorsed by MOAA and The Military Coalition, rather than the 1.4% proposed by the Pentagon
- Manpower increases for the active Army and Navy
- Increases in hostile fire pay and family separation allowance to match inflation since they were last adjusted in 2004 (which would equate to about a \$35 monthly increase in each)
- A pilot program to help military spouses find jobs in the military community
- A one-time cash allowance for severely wounded warriors to help resettle caregivers providing aid and attendance
- Authority to continue TRICARE coverage for children up to age 26, in return for a premium to be set by the Pentagon
- A total of \$65 million to assist civilian schools serving military children, including those impacted by Base Realignment and Closure actions
- TRICARE coverage for Guard/Reserve members who qualify for retired pay before age 60

Davis said the subcommittee was thankful that they "did not have to deal with dramatic increases to TRICARE fees this year," but hinted that might not be true in the future. She said the subcommittee is willing to "collaborate with DoD and organizations that represent our military personnel and their families to explore fair and equitable proposals to control significant cost growth." *(Continued on Page 3)*

Legislative Update: (Cont'd from page 2)

Notably missing from the markup was any progress on needed fixes for concurrent receipt, survivor benefits, and reserve retirement. Voicing her frustration with House rules that require offsetting spending cuts to pay for any such initiatives, Davis said the subcommittee "does not have the mandatory offsets that would be required to achieve the large scale solutions for any of those proposals."

Approving such initiatives requires leadership support to find "head-room" from elsewhere in the budget outside the Armed Services Committee's purview, or a House vote to waive the offset rules.

Latham's Reserve Retirement Fix

A new bill would fix a glitch that unfairly short-changes Guard and Reserve members on active duty credit toward early retirement eligibility. Rep Tom Latham (R-IA) has introduced the Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act (HR 4947) to >>>

Legislative Update: (Cont'd)

fix current statutory language that bars thousands of Guard and Reserve members from receiving proper credit for their active duty service toward early Reserve retirement.

Since January 28, 2008 activated members of the National Guard and Reserve receive three months' early reserve retirement credit -- normally, age 60 -- for each aggregate active duty service period of 90 days. Congress adopted the 2008 law to acknowledge the unprecedented reliance on the reserve forces for operational duty at home and overseas. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 770,000 reservists have been called up and more than 250,000 have served multiple tours.

The glitch is that each 90-day increment of creditable active duty service must be performed within a single fiscal year. Which means a 90-day tour starting in October through June receives full credit, but one that starts in July, August or September gets none - >>>>

Legislative Update: (Cont'd)

because it crosses the Oct.1 start of the next fiscal year.

Similarly, a 12-month tour earns 12 months of Reserve retirement credit only if it starts in the first one or two days of January, April, July, or October. Otherwise, it yields only 9 months of early retirement credit, since one of its quarters will span the start of a new fiscal year.

MOAA believes that Congress never intended to impose such arbitrary and unfair credit restrictions on Guard and Reserve personnel.

The solution in Rep. Latham's bill is simple and sensible -- provide "rollover" crediting of operational service between fiscal years for all accrued service of at least 90 days. MOAA and our Military Coalition partners strongly support H.R. 4947. Please send a MOAA suggested message to urge your representative to cosponsor and pass this important legislation.

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Reservation for the Tuesday, 25 May 2010, Chapter Luncheon Meeting

Please include me/us at the Chapter Luncheon Meeting and Program. _____

To RSVP: Call or eMail:

LCol John B Nowlin

Phone: 562-925-9134

or (Cell) (562) 455-6425

Email: jbnowlin@aol.com

_____ **Hank's Choice Lunch \$15.00/person** \$ _____.

- Salad or Sandwich w/Soup

_____ **50/50 Drawing tickets, \$1.00 each** \$ _____.

Pay at the Door:

Donations for postage & printing. \$ _____.

2010 Dues: Members \$15.00, Auxiliary \$5.00 \$ _____.

TOTAL \$ _____.

Corrections/comments for the Chapter or Newsletter Editor:

NOTE:

BoD Meeting immediately follows the Luncheon

If you have an Email address, please let us know - help save on stamps: _____

Legislative Commentary:

By Rush Limbaugh 3/12/2010

Love him or loathe him, it's something to think about.

I think the vast differences in compensation between victims of the September 11 casualty and those who die serving our country in Uniform are profound! No one is really talking about it either, because you just don't criticize anything having to do with September 11. Well, I can't let the numbers pass by because it says something really disturbing about the entitlement mentality of this country. If you lost a family member in the September 11 attack, you're going to get an average of \$1,185,000. The range is a minimum guarantee of \$250,000, all the way up to \$4.7 million. If you are a surviving family member of an American soldier killed in action, the first check you get is a \$6,000 direct death benefit, half of which is taxable. Next, you >>>

Legislative Commentary: *Cont'd*

get \$1,750 for burial costs. If you are the surviving spouse, you get \$833 a month until you remarry; and there's a payment of \$211 per month for each child under 18; when the child hits 18, the pay-ments come to a screeching halt!

Keep in mind that some of these people who are getting an average of \$1.185 million up to \$4.7 million are complaining that it's not enough. Their deaths were tragic, but for most, they were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Soldiers put themselves in harms way FOR ALL OF US, and they and their families know the dangers. (Actually, soldiers are put in harms way by politicians and commanding officers. We also learned over the weekend that some of the victims from the Oklahoma City bombing have started an organization asking for the same deal that the September 11 families are getting. ... You see where this is going, don't you? >>>

Legislative Commentary: *(Cont'd)*

Folks, this is part and parcel of over 50 years of entitlement politics in this country. It's just really sad. Every time a pay raise comes up for the military, they usually receive next to nothing of a raise. Now the green machine is in combat in the Middle East while their families have to survive on food stamps and live in low-rent housing. Make sense??

However, our own US Congress voted themselves a raise. Many of you don't know that they only have to be in Congress one term to receive a pension that is more than \$15,000 per month. And most are now equal to being millionaires plus...They do not receive Social Security on retirement because they didn't have to pay into the system. If some of the military people stay in for 20 years and get out as an E-7, they may receive a pension of \$1,000 per month, and the very people who placed them in harm's way receives a pension of \$15,000 per month!! . **end**

Rio Hondo Chapter

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

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Time Dated Material.

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