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THE COTTON PATCH

MAY 2017

Newsletter of the Northeast Arkansas Chapter

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

www.moaa-arkansas.org/neark



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Chapter to Award

Vietnam Vet Lapel Pins. The MOAA NEA Chapter's program for the US Congressionally mandated commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam Conflict will kick off at our May meeting with the awarding of certificates and lapel pins for military who served during the war. *This event is being staged to award these items to members of our MOAA chapter only. Later events will be open to area Vietnam Veterans area wide and will be launched this fall.* This commemoration is being conducted in conjunction with our yearly memorial ceremony for our fallen comrades. The May ceremony has received an initial allotment of 50 pins and certificates signed by the President of the United States. We are attempting to secure the participation of a publicly significant individual who will do the actual awarding honors. The ceremony will have press and TV coverage locally. The pins will be awarded on a first-come basis until the next shipment is received. Date and time of our fall area wide ceremony will be announced at the end of the summer.

MAY MEETING ON 16 May

The MAY general meeting will be held at Western Sizziln' in Jonesboro on 16 MAY at 1900 hrs. Our Speaker will be Mr. Mark Frank, Veterans Service Officer for the 5th District, Jonesboro. Also, JROTC Scholarships will be presented.

PRESIDENT'S ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Last month I made some comments about attendance (or lack thereof) at our chapter meetings. Two members took the time to respond to my request for thoughts or suggestions regarding the situation. They pointed out that they are indeed members and are interested in their chapter and would like to be kept abreast of activities and events but that they rarely have an opportunity to attend the meetings. Two of the main obstacles are that their home is quite distant from Jonesboro and they have reached the point where they do not wish to travel at night. This is certainly understandable and probably not an uncommon situation. The officers and I would like to address this problem but first we need to ascertain how many members may find themselves in this situation. (Cont'd Pg 3)

Military Support within the State of Arkansas

In the April 27 Arkansas Democrat Gazette

David Smith reports that the five military installations in Arkansas support more than 62,000 jobs and produce \$3 billion in labor income, the Governor's Military Affairs Committee said in a study released Wednesday. The Installations, LR Air Force Base, Pine Bluff Arsenal, the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith and Camp Robinson/Camp Pike, directly employ 21,000 and support another 41,400 indirect jobs. The installations produce \$4.5 billion in gross state product and generate \$330 million in tax revenue. In 2015, Gov. Hutchinson established an initiative to support and promote the state's military installations and related economic development interests. Mike Preston, executive director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, said the reason for the study was to make sure that we're proactively supporting the military and recruiting around it in economic development. "It also will help us to be prepared if there is a future round of base realignment and closure by the federal government to show that the state is being as supportive as possible," Preston said. Other states also have programs to support military installations, such as Florida, South Carolina and Georgia, Preston added. Florida, where Preston worked before he was hired as the commission's executive director, has 22 military bases. The Sunshine State has actually succeeded in acquiring more military

bases and more missions, Preston added. Recommendations from the study include initiating community led partnerships to support the state's military installations, determining each installation's capacity to accept new missions, retaining more veterans in the state, capitalizing on expanded National Guard training opportunities at Camp Robinson and investing state resources to enhance military bases, the report said. The state also hired retired COL Gary Nolland as the commissions' Director of Military Affairs in December. This is the first time the state has had someone solely focused on military affairs, Preston said. The key goal for the program is to make the military bases as strong as possible, Holland said. "Through the findings and recommendations from this study, we now have a clear vision for our next steps" Holland said in a prepared statement. Arkansas has applied with the federal government as the site for Battlefield Airman training, a program that now is held in seven or eight locations around the country. The government is considering consolidating the program in one state. Arkansas is one of about 10 states under consideration, Holland added. The government won't make a final decision on the program until 2018, he said.



LAST MAN STANDING

Dick Cole is the last man standing. And when he raised his silver goblet for the final time to toast his 79 departed comrades on Tuesday, 18 April, the longstanding tradition of the Doolittle Raiders private ceremony—which cemented the bond between the courageous volunteers, both enlisted men and officers, into a well-trained group who placed their collective duty as Americans above their individual lives—will end, writes Jeff Thatcher, son of Doolittle Raider David Thatcher. Lt Col Richard E. Cole, Doolittle's co-pilot, is the last of the courageous men who made America's spirits soar after nearly 5 months of losses at the hands of the Japanese. America needed a victory and the Doolittle Raiders gave that to all Americans. The Japanese homeland had not suffered an attack in over 2,600 years! The other 79 Raiders have gone on to their reward in glory, some before the war's end but most survived the war. Their first reunion was in December of 1946 with Doolittle footing the bill. America will forever be grateful for their actions and sacrifices. May God rest and bless you brave souls.



MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

Northeast Arkansas Chapter Military

Officers Association of America

PO Box 718

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72403

Dues fund our scholarship and chapter activities so please be generous in giving extra for the scholarship fund if you can. 2017 Dues (\$20) for Northeast Arkansas Chapter, PO Box 718, Jonesboro, AR 72403

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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Amount Paid: _____

THE DRAFT

May 8, 2017, marks the 100th anniversary of the DRAFT! President Woodrow Wilson signed it into law. More than 2.8 million men were inducted into the WW I military. During WWII more than 10 million were inducted with more than 16 million participating, either through conscription or volunteering. During the Korean War 1.5 million were drafted making up 27% of those who served. During Vietnam 21% of the 8.7 million, or 1.9 million men, served in the war. The last man drafted in December 1972 entered the Army on June 30, 1973. Data comes from the VFW as written by Jerome G. Chandler.

Cont'd Presidents Concerns

To this end, I would like to request that if you have an interest in strengthening your involvement with your MOAA Chapter either through actual contact or enhanced communication, please send me an email note to that effect at hgermer@sbcglobal.net.

My second suggestion is for everyone to examine a report entitled "MOAA Arkansas Government Affairs Quarterly Update," prepared by Don Berry who represents veteran interests for MOAA and the Arkansas Veterans Coalition in Arkansas governmental affairs. The pdf file for this report can be found and downloaded from this URL: www.moaa-arkansas.org/northeast-ark-chapter.html. I will post this address on our Facebook page as well. The name of the file is "moaa Arkansas and avs update 22 apr 17". The report not only contains information which should be of interest to all Arkansas veterans but also is an indication of the return we are receiving for our investment in the organization (Arkansas Veterans Coalition) which is our advocate with the Arkansas government.

(Editor's Note: Our immediate past president, Bob Schoenborn, was heavily invested in time and effort in the Arkansas Veteran's Coalition and only through his and other members of the coalition were we able to get the retiree tax exemption and Arkansas Work Initiative passed.)

SN Doran H Bolduc	FCCS Robert L. Shippee
BM1 Braddi O. Brown	SMSA Jeffry C. Sibley
FC3 Jeffrey L. Calkins	OS3 Lee Stephens
SN Mark R. Caouette	TM2 James R. Stevens
SN John A Ciletta Jr.	ET3 Martin J. Supple
SR Brian M. Clinefelter	FC1 Gregory L. Tweady
OS3 Antonio A. Daniels	SN Vincent L. Ulmer
ET2 Christopher DeAngelis	EW3 Joseph P. Watson
IC3 James W. Dunlap	ET3 Wayne R. Weaver
STGSN Steven T. Erwin	OSSN Terrance Weldon
RM2 Jerry Boyd Farr	IC2 Lloyd A. Wilson
OMCS Vernon T. Foster	
RMSA Dexter D. Grissett	
FC3 William R. Hansen	
GMM3 Daniel Homicki	
OSSN Kenneth D. Janusik Jr.	
OS1 Steven E. Kendall	
EMCS Stephen Kiser	
SM1 Ronnie G. Lockett	
GMM! Thomas J. MacMullen	
EW3 Charles T. Moller	
SA Jeffrei L. Phelps	
DS1 Randy E. Pierce	
GMM3 James Plonsky	
ET3 Kelly R. Quick	
SMSN Earl P. Ryals	

The above sailors were killed on May 17, 1987, 30 years ago, aboard the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf when fired upon by an Iraqi fighter Jet; 37 were killed, 21 were injured. We salute them and mourn their loss.