



# The Eagle's Eye



February 2009

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The Newsletter of the Gainesville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

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## President's Message

This is the Eagle's Eye for 2009. We have a new board (listed later) and have had our first board meeting. We appointed Del Dougherty as Secretary. She will be an asset, and has already relieved Jerry Kirkpatrick of his double duty of Secretary and Treasurer. He is pleased.

Below my message is information about our Valentine's Sweetheart affair on February 13th. We'll have a fine dinner with accompanying music. Please come and bring your friends.

We have put together a full calendar of events for the year. It will be published so that you can get events on your calendar early...kind of like "Save the Date" so when the Eagle's Eye appears for the reservations there will be no surprises. Be aware that we have a few more events scheduled than in past years, so that if you have to miss an event, it will not be several months before you can again see your friends at a Chapter social event. We will try to send an Eagle's Eye before these events to at least get your reservation information. We need a count for the various restaurants, so please be prompt. This is not to burden you, but to allow you to pick and choose those events that you wish to attend, and allow you to stay in contact with your friends.

Speaking of the Eagle's Eye, this will be the last hard copy of the Eagle's Eye being sent to all our members. In the future, we will be sending it electronically to those of you having email addresses. Those who do not have email will continue to get it by snail mail. We feel this will save money, time, talent, and trees. Having said that, it is imperative that you update your information. Some of your "current" email addresses have bounced back. Be assured that your email address will only be used for MOAA/MOW information.

We would like each of you to reach out to any Military Officers in our community, and invite them to join us. Maybe you could bring them to an event to let them get an idea of our great camaraderie. There are a lot of Officers in our area who do not even know that we exist. Also, please pass information on to a board member when anyone in our group loses a spouse, is having surgery, or is ill. We need to support each other in our moments of difficulty.

Thanks for your support. We look forward to working for you, and with you in the coming year. We hope that 2009 is the best ever for you and your family.

Candy Gleason  
MOAA President

**Non-Chapter Event That You May Want To Attend**

**THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS  
2009 CONVENTION  
JUNE 5-7**

Sirata Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach, FL.

- SPECIAL because 2009 marks 80th Anniversary of the national MOAA.
- June 6th marks 65th Anniversary of D-Day.
- June 4-7 marks 67th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

Hotel rate \$131 plus tax per room, per night

- Must call 800-344-5999
- Can cancel up to May 6th
- Questions Chris Lillich 727-546-2246 or lillichc@aol.com

**Events include :**

June 5th.

- Golf - \$55 (9am-3pm)
- Presidents Reception - \$25

June 6th

- Breakfast - 7:30-9am - \$25
- Memorial Service - 9:15-10am.
- FL Council Chapters Meeting - 10:15-11:15am.
- Spouse/Fighting for Military -10:15-11am.
  
- National Security Update - 1:30-3pm.
  
- MILITARY BALL - 6-11pm - \$55

Dress: Casual except Military Ball-Formal Military Uniforms or Formal Civilian Attire



# WANTED

Persons willing to spend quality time with great people working on a worthy cause. We need 2 vice presidents and an EAGLE'S EYE Editor. Many hands make light work. Please step up and help. Contact: Candy Gleason 333-8974.

## *Spring Forward!*

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

**BEGINS ON**

**MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD**

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**The Gainesville Chapter  
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P.O. Box 142423  
Gainesville, FL 32614-2423

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**APPOINTED DUTIES**

<i>Chief of Legislative and Government Affairs:</i>	Mayer Littman, Col, USAF	331-4676	<a href="mailto:mayerlittman@worldnet.att.net">mayerlittman@worldnet.att.net</a>
<i>Eagle's Eye Editor:</i>	vacant		
<i>Membership Secretary:</i>	Roger Pierce, Maj, USAF	378-7063	<a href="mailto:roger@piercepages.com">roger@piercepages.com</a>
<i>Registered Agent:</i>	Peter H. Ward, Maj, USA	378-3231	<a href="mailto:PHWard@aol.com">PHWard@aol.com</a>
<i>Auxiliary Liaison:</i>	Nancy Spikes	384-3690	<a href="mailto:jwsdold1@cox.net">jwsdold1@cox.net</a>
<i>Chaplain:</i>	Jay Lauer, LCol, USAF	372-5517	

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**GAINESVILLE CHAPTER of THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP**

P.O. Box 142423, Gainesville, FL 32614-2423

Print clearly!

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Title \_\_\_\_\_  Widow(er)

Service (CIRCLE ONE): USA USN USAF USMC USCG USPHS NOAA

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Exclude me from the email list

Year entered service \_\_\_\_\_ Year retired or discharged \_\_\_\_\_

Year arrived in Gainesville \_\_\_\_\_

National MOAA Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ (From your membership card or above your name on the mailing label of The Military Officer Magazine)

If not retired, business or occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

List up to three units you served in \_\_\_\_\_

The chapter relies on volunteers to function. Please indicate if you can help in the following areas:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Leadership Position (officer, board of directors) | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter articles       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee assignment                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Any area where I can help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon/Dinner meeting programs                          |  |

NEW MEMBER: Fill in entire form. Enclose \$15 dues. Dues received after 1 Oct will apply for the next year. Dues are due for all memberships on 1 Jan. No dues for spouses, honorary, or widow(er) members.

WIDOW(ER)S: Check the box and fill in the entire form using your own name, SSAN, and address. Show your title (e.g. MRS or MR). Show deceased spouse's name, rank, and service. There are no dues.

RENEWALS: Use the certificate sent to you in the fall. Please DO NOT use this form.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
**The Way Eye See It!**  
by Mayer Littman, COL, USAF (Ret.)

Well, it's arrived...2009...with all its trials and tribulations – and excitement - for all of us. We have lots to do this year, and one of our first priorities is to stay informed on all legislative issues pertaining to the retired military community. Please don't reject this suggestion out of hand...believe me, in this tenuous economic times - which may just get considerably worse...if you feel/believe/consider that your economic status is impervious to assault you are probably laboring under a very false misconception. (I am not going to argue that point with you, but if you don't want to accept it then that's your individual right to do so...whatever you feel is appropriate...) But first let's review some of our hard fought "wins" contained in the National Defense Authorization Act 08 (NDAA) which is now in effect:

1. The paid up Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) became effective 1 October 2008 for all retirees who are at least 70 years of age, and have paid at least 360 months (30 years) of SBP premiums will no longer have to make monthly payments. Those of us who are affected shouldn't have to take any action, as Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) will notify you of your paid-up status, and when premiums will be stopped (if they have not already done so.). This can mean for many as much as \$436.00 additional in their monthly paycheck! If you look at the bottom of the first page of your Retiree Account Statement, it will show you how many months, of record, you have paid. This specific benefit will please you, but consider that with your demise the 55% of your annuity base amount will also be of great benefit to your spouse. FYI both the paid up feature and the 55% feature were hard fought items in the last two NDAA's by BOTH YOU AND NATIONAL MOAA! (They did not come about because of "someone's" good graces!!!)
2. Another win was the 5.8% COLA for 2009! However, be aware that in October/November and December 2008 we saw steep price drops which put inflation in a 3.8% hole in January 2009 (this month), and we could/can/may have a huge swing in the NDAA 09 COLA for 2010. (I will keep you current on this in future Eagle Eyes)
3. Now, for those among us who previously have been denied access to VA health care, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will start enrolling more of the "Category 8" (non disabled, middle-income) veterans. If you have previously applied for benefits, and you know your Category, and you want to take advantage of this new entitlement travel to the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Facility on Archer road and check in with Administration. You can discuss your personal requirements, where you fit in with this specific entitlement and the application procedures, etc. Remember, patience, it takes time from application to acceptance as you will be asked to provide appropriate documentation, etc. So, if you are interested, start the process...the new regulation/entitlement takes effect in June 2009. If you are interested and have questions prior to visiting Malcolm Randall contact the VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387 and if you have a computer GOOGLE "VA health eligibility"
4. THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT BILLS (OF INTEREST TO MOAA) WILL BE ON THE FLOOR (2009) AND MAY NEED YOUR SUPPORT WITH A MESSAGE TO REPRESENTATIVE CLIFF STEARNS URGING HIS CO-SPONSORSHIP:
5.
  - a. H.R. 303 Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla): Would authorize full, immediate concurrent receipt for all retirees with at least 20 years of service who have service-connected disabilities.
  - b. H.R. 333 Rep. Jim Marshall (D-Ga): Would authorize full, immediate concurrent receipt for all retirees with service-connected

disabilities, including those medically retired with less than 20 years of service.

- c. H.R. 157 Rep. Olympia Snowe (R-ME):  
Would waive the requirement for retirees age 70 ½ to take a minimum distribution from IRA/401K for tax years 2008 through 2010. The current law authorizes this only for tax year 2009. (That one may affect many of us and if passed could be most beneficial).

I am going to end this initial report on legislative affairs for 2009 with the following comment/statement/alert... Tricare-for-life may be on the chopping block” The New Administration has placed a priority on cutting TFL out of the budget as a means to provide funding for those things promised during the Presidential Campaign. Within the Congressional Budget Office report there is a strong recommendation to eventually eliminate TFL as it is too expensive. Remember TFL is a new benefit (we fought hard for it) and unlike FEHBP or most of those plans is far more generous and simple than any of the Blue cross/Blue shield, commercial policies...or FEHBP. Now TFL is not entirely free...you do have to continue enrollment in Medicare B, but in the civil world circa 2000 this policy would probably cost \$700.00 per month per couple. The Federal Circuit Court of appeals listened to the DOD lawyers arguing in opposition that TFL (in 2000) would bankrupt the DOD Health Care Program and that it would cost 16 billion dollars... back in FY2000. DOD now has had 9 years to again reconstruct their case to the Legislature, and DOD may just do that in FY2009...this definitely will be a strong point of contention (within the budget), and of great concern for ALL of us. It will take YOUR vigorous and continuing support in obtaining our LEGISLATORS (Nelson, Martinez, and Stearns) to actively fight for us when it does come up. Congress begins their debates on the NDAA 2010 in the months ahead so we must stay informed. Enough for that for now...BUT BE AWARE AND CONCERNED...

I leave you with this Quickie: I just celebrated my birthday the 15th of January, and my parents always taught me to respect my elders...but darn it guys it just keeps getting harder and harder for me to find one!

Mayer ☺

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2009

FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup>

Valentines Sweetheart Affair  
GG&CC

MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>

MOW (Military Officer's Wives) Luncheon  
GG&CC

APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>

Joint Luncheon MOAA/MOW  
Oak Hammock

MAY 4<sup>th</sup>

Cinco de Mayo  
Mexico Lindo  
Tower Road Shopping Center

MAY 26<sup>th</sup>

MOW Luncheon  
GG&CC

JUNE - JULY - AUGUST

Vacation Time

SEPTEMBER - Date pending.

Chinese Dinner  
Location TBA

OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>

Oktoberfest  
Oak Hammock

OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>

MOW Luncheon  
GG&CC

NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>

Veterans Day Picnic  
Ginny Springs

DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Dinner  
GG&CC

# DINNER RESERVATION

Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, social time at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm

**Gainesville Country Club**

**\$23<sup>00</sup> Per Person**

NAME

GRADE

SERVICE

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call Candy Gleason (352) 333-8974

(return this portion with your check, payable to MOAA)

✂ -----

Gainesville Chapter, MOAA  
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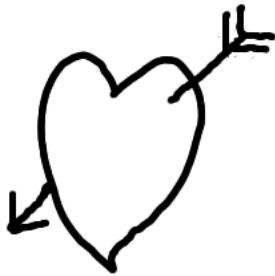
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## OUR CHAPTER VALENTINE'S SWEETHEART AFFAIR

February 13th at the Gainesville Golf and Country Club

6:00 pm social time

6:30 pm dinner



### Menu

*Salad and rolls*

*Chicken Marsala*

*rice and vegetables*

*dessert and beverage*

Cash bar

\$23 per person

We need to give a count to the club by February 6th, so please return your reservation promptly.



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