



The Eagle's Eye



September 2011

Newsletter of the Gainesville, Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Inside:

Flash: VADM

Ryan's message: "The Battle is Just Beginning" - p2

New Military ID Numbers—p2

Oktoberfest Luncheon Reservation—p3

Do Legislator's Care About Your Letters? - p4

National POW/MIA Recognition Day—p5

Reject the "Chained COLA" — p6/7

The Federal Trade Commission—Cell Phone DNK List—p8

Liberty Fest Auction at GCC—p9

Chapter Calendar of Events — p10

Medical Corner: Prostate Cancer Awareness Month — p11

President's Message:

Summer is over and it is time to begin our exciting fall and winter chapter activities. School is back in session and we welcome new chapter initiatives to support the University of Florida ROTC programs and the Gainesville area high school Junior ROTC programs. On this note, congratulations to Lieutenant Commander Rodney Bolling, USN (Ret), as he moves his JROTC leadership role from Eastside High School to Gainesville High School.

Welcome to new chapter members Colonel Perry R. Clawson, USA (Ret), Captain Donald A. Dertien, USN (Ret) and his wife, Patricia, and Commander John N. Donis, USN (Ret) and his wife, Ida. We are delighted to have them join our chapter.

Your chapters Board of Directors have planned a variety of social gatherings that reach across the broad interest of our membership. The fall social calendar kicks off with an Oktoberfest themed luncheon at the Gainesville County Club on Thursday, 6 October. See details in the announcement/flyer and registration form included in this edition of the *Eagles Eye*.

The Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Bed Tower will hold a Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 10:00 AM Saturday, 24 September 2011. This is new 5-story patient bed tower of approximately 245,000 SF. It will include a mechanical penthouse, four floors of patient beds and the ground floor for supporting services including Urology, Ophthalmology and Chest Pain Observation. The bed tower will provide 240 private patient rooms with space in each room for family members to correct the existing patient privacy deficiencies in the existing hospital.

A date is not yet set for ground breaking of the Fisher House, which will be available for families whose loved ones are receiving medical attention at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center. The Architectural and Engineering Plot has been performed and submitted to the VA and Fisher House National. Word on the ground breaking date may be available after the dedication of the new VA Bed Tower. Watch for an announcement in a future edition of the *Eagles Eye*. (Continued on page 2)

Plans are in work for our chapter to support the second annual All American Liberty Fest with a MOAA information station. This PATRIOTIC FAMILY EVENT benefits our veteran community and military organizations, highlight Alachua county veteran memorials, and provide a free, fun-filled annual event for the entire community to enjoy. (Continued on page 2)

Oktoberfest Luncheon

Featured Speaker: Lieutenant General John M. LeMoyne, USA Ret

FLASH! Read VADM Ryan's Stunning Letter, Just Received — If This Doesn't Move Us to Action, Nothing Will...

Dear (MOAA MEMBER),

It's time to man battle stations.

Yesterday, the Administration put out its plan to cut the deficit by \$3 trillion over the next 10 years, including specific proposals for \$27 billion in cuts in the military retirement and health care package.

The Administration plan envisions:

- Establishing an annual enrollment fee for TRICARE For Life
- Another (unspecified) retail pharmacy co-pay hike
- Establishing a BRAC-style commission to recommend "modernizing" the military retirement system

Most upsetting, the stated intent of the proposals is to "align government programs with those in the private sector" and address the "measurable disparity between the fees most retired private sector workers pay...and what retired military personnel pay."

Those words show a shocking insensitivity to the extraordinary demands and sacrifices imposed on career service members and families.

Our strong stance has attracted a major media blitz. Our staff experts have been quoted in The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and The Lou Dobbs Show in the last two days alone. We anticipate a great deal of media attention over the next few weeks due to MOAA's reputation as a reliable source.

Now is the time for all MOAA members to mobilize. Please urge your officer friends to join MOAA and start actively working to protect their interests and those of the current and future force.

This isn't just about equity. It's about an attack on the core elements that sustain the quality career force that protects our national security.

Any who continue to sit on the sidelines jeopardize their own interests, the military community's, and the nation's future capability to sustain a strong national defense.

Start by sending this **MOAA-suggested message** to your elected officials.

This battle is just beginning.

Sincerely,



VADM Norb Ryan, USN (Ret)
President

If you click on the MOAA-suggested message above without success, go to the MOAA website (moaa.org), click on Retirement Under Siege, and you'll be guided to the Action Alert message or letter

New Military ID Numbers

The Pentagon's program to remove Social Security numbers (SSNs) from military ID cards is continuing with its second phase, during which all printed SSNs will be removed from ID cards and replaced by DoD ID numbers.

The final phase is expected to begin in late 2012 and will remove SSNs from the barcodes on the back of ID cards, effectively removing all SSNs.

ID cards are being replaced as they expire. Those whose cards have indefinite expiration dates can make an appointment at their ID card office but might want to wait until the final phase is implemented. To find the nearest ID card office, use the site locator at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/

Please join us for the
Gainesville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

Oktoberfest Luncheon

Featured guest speaker is

Lieutenant General John M. LeMoyne, USA (Retired)

Gainesville Country Club
7300 SW 35th Way
Gainesville, Florida 32608
(352) 372-1458

11:30 AM Thursday, October 6, 2011

Event schedule:

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social – Cash bar

12:00 -12:40 PM – Oktoberfest Buffet Luncheon (\$14 per person)

12:40 – 1:00 PM Guest speaker remarks and Question & Answer

Reservations required to insure accurate guaranteed food service count.

Please mail your reservation request not later than September 30, 2011

Yes, I/we want to attend Gainesville Chapter MOAA Oktoberfest luncheon on Thursday, October 6, 2011

Name: _____

Number attending: _____ Guest name (s): _____

RSVP with \$14 per person check payable to:

Gainesville Chapter, MOAA

P.O. Box 142423

Gainesville, FL 32614-2423

As I See IT – Do Legislators Care About Your Letters?

2011/09/15

By Col. Steve Strobridge, USAF-Ret.

MOAA's tagline is "One Powerful Voice®," but the real power of the organization comes from the willingness of our 370,000 members and 400-plus state councils and chapters to generate a large volume of grassroots input to Congress.

Last year, MOAA members generated more than a million communications to Congress. And that's just counting the various media options we have the ability to monitor — messages through our website, phone calls through the MOAA-sponsored Capitol Hill hot line, tear-out letters and postcards in *Military Officer*, etcetera.

In the last two months alone, you've generated more than 250,000 email messages to Congress.

A regular question from members is, "Do those form emails, letters, and postcards really get listened to?" While the impact can vary with individual legislators, issues, and volume of mail, the short answer is "definitely." Obviously, what matters most to legislators is the passion expressed by the constituent and the volume of similar input.

The single most powerful communication is a short, hand-written letter. But relatively few actually do that. Many aren't sure who their legislators are or what their addresses are. Others are uncertain about the specifics of an issue or what they should say.

That's where MOAA can help — by providing suggested text, electronic systems that automatically load your legislators' email addresses based on your home address, and pre-addressed tear-out letters and postcards in the magazine.

How do we know legislators pay attention to that communication? Because they and their staffs tell us — and others — they do. At one Armed Services Committee hearing, the chair had hearing tables stacked with thousands of MOAA-generated tear-out letters. He told government witnesses, "If you think we're going to ignore these letters, you need to think again." We also go by results, as measured by legislators' co-sponsorship of our key legislation (which always rises after a mail campaign) and by our success in winning enactment of legislation. Will some staffers tell you they ignore mass mailings? On occa-

sion. But that almost certainly isn't their boss' position. Legislators know they ignore constituent input at their electoral peril. Most Hill offices have a rule of thumb that for every constituent letter on a topic, there are another ten or more constituents who care about the same issue.

Some organizations or individuals generate mass messages from a single fax machine, etcetera. Those aren't real constituent inputs, and they do get ignored for the most part. But when large numbers of individual constituents take the time to send individual messages or letters, that's a different thing entirely — especially if the letters are individualized in some way, such as a hand-written "PS." So don't let anybody tell you sending an MOAA-suggested message or letter won't make a difference.

Exercising your grassroots muscle this way is the key to influencing your legislators. You can enhance that influence by personalizing your letters in some way — and by passing on the suggested text to friends, relatives, and neighbors and urging them to add to the volume of constituent mail.

In the tough budget times ahead, maximizing grassroots input to your elected representatives has never been more important.

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President's Message (Continued from page 1).

This event will take place on Sunday, 6 November 2011 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM at the Santa Fe College campus near the large flagpole and Liberty Oak-tree. Last year chapter members supported our information station that let our local area presence be known, and resulted in "recruitment" of new members. Save the date and plan to join your chapter team in this community outreach program.

Carter

National POW/MIA Recognition Day — Ceremony at Malcom Randall VA Medical Center

On Friday, 16 September, Brigadier General Paul Albritton, USAF, Retired, was the featured speaker at the Veteran's Affairs POW-MIA ceremony conducted at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center.

Among other things, General Albritton spoke of a category of missing service member that is very close to his heart — the killed in action, remains not recovered. His second seater pilot ejected when their fighter was hit under heavy fire. He was found and pronounced dead by a rescue helicopter, but could not be recovered due to hostile action.

The President issues a proclamation commemorating the observances and reminding the nation of those Americans who have sacrificed so much for their country.

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. It is traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.

With the passage of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act, the POW/MIA Flag was specified to fly on:

Armed Forces Day—3d Saturday in May

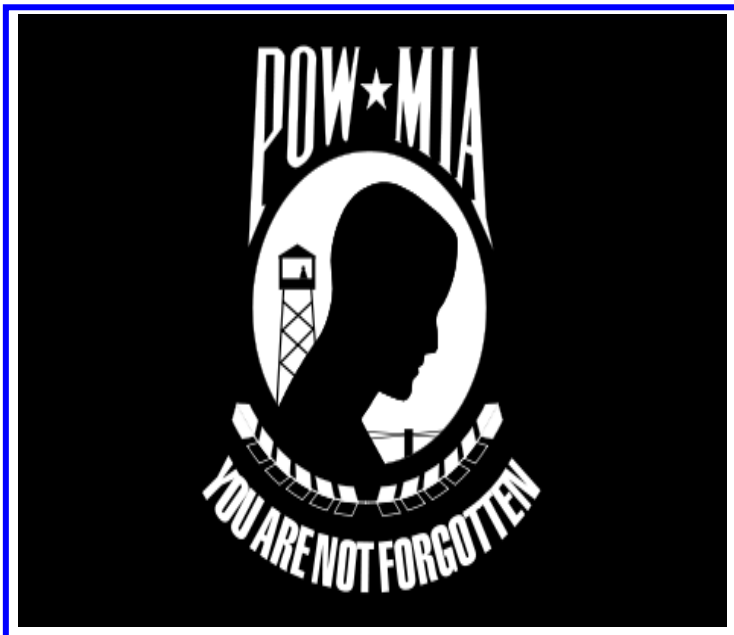
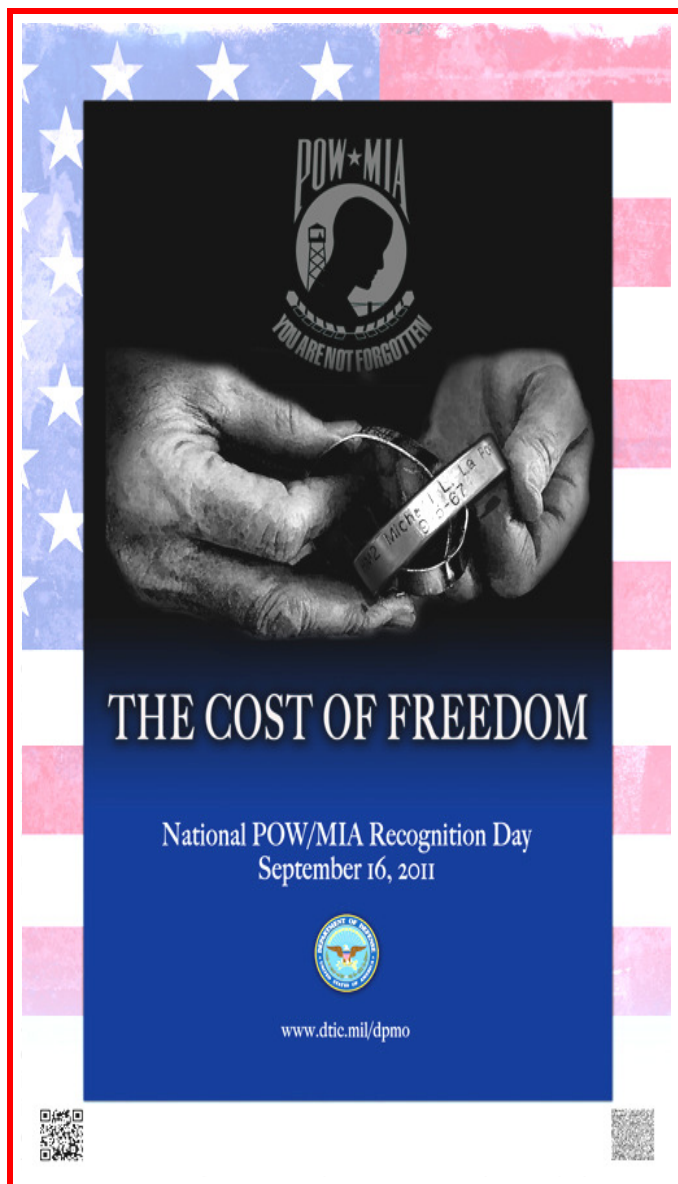
Memorial Day—last Monday in May

Flag Day—June 14th

Independence Day—July 4th

National POW/MIA Recognition Day—3d Friday in Sept

Veterans Day—November 11th



COLA Alert—Read and Understand what may be a targeted “Cut” in COLA Calculations (the Chained CPI) [MOAA Legislative webpage]

The fiscal commission proposed adjusting the CPI methodology to the so-called “chained CPI” calculation as a means of holding down COLA growth for Social Security, military and federal civilian retired pay, and all other federal annuities over time. The Rivlin-Dominici panel also recommended adopting the chained CPI for all federal annuities.

Proponents of the chained CPI say it more accurately reflects changes in annuitants’ cost of living by recognizing that their purchasing behavior changes as prices change. If the price of beef rises, for example, consumers may purchase more chicken and less beef.

The real issue with the chained CPI is whether one is measuring changes in prices or changes in quality of life. If one continues the logical progression of the argument, consumers might find themselves substituting hot dogs or pasta for chicken, etcera.

MOAA thinks the COLA process is likely to be high on the agenda for action in 2011, if only because the impacts of COLA changes seem small to the public — and because the potential affect seems even more diminished when federal annuitants have seen no COLAs at all for the past two years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has estimated that implementation of the chained CPI would cut COLAs by about one-quarter of a percentage point per year. The DoD Actuary’s assumption for the military retirement fund is that inflation will average 3 percent per year over the long term.

Using those two estimates, applying chained-CPI COLAs for a service member retiring at age 42 would yield about 10 percent less in his or her retired paycheck at age 80 relative to the current COLA system. This example illustrates the powerful compounding effect of even very small COLA adjustments over time — both for protecting beneficiary purchasing power and for generating cost savings for the government.

Most service members don’t realize about 50 percent of total lifetime retired pay for a 20-year military retiree will come from COLAs. The chained CPI is the very smallest COLA proposal federal annuitants may see in the next few years.

COLAs are more important to military retirees and the disabled than most other categories of beneficiaries, mainly because they start drawing their annuities at younger ages and thus experience the compounding effects over a greater number of years. To the extent that COLAs fail to keep up with living costs, real purchasing power continues to decline ever more dramatically as long as one lives.

MOAA is determined to preserve the intended purpose of COLAs — to protect annuitants’ purchasing power against progressive erosion by the ravages of inflation.

Another possibility is delaying any COLAs until age 60 or later. Individual members of the fiscal commission in the past have proposed barring COLAs on annuity levels above some set dollar amount or reducing the CPI by one-half percent or a full percentage point per year.

As I See it—Chained CPI: It’s Not a Technicality; It’s a COLA Cut [MOAA Legislative webpage]

2011/07/14

By Col. Steve Strobbridge, USAF-Ret.

One of the most frequently mentioned options by most parties at the deficit-cutting table is a “technical correction” to the CPI called the “chained CPI.” It’s gone under the radar for the most part. But if implemented, it could affect the lives of almost all Americans — especially service members, federal civilian employees, Social Security recipients, and other retirees and survivors.

This isn’t a new idea. It’s been pushed for years by some economists who believe the CPI overstates inflation by failing to adequately recognize that consumers change their behavior when prices of some products and services rise sharply. When that happens, economists say, people simply buy cheaper substitute products — carrots instead of peas or tea instead of coffee. While coffee drinkers might rebel at that, the case gets even stickier with other substitutions. Is hamburger a reasonable substitute for steak? Is a compact car a reasonable substitute for a full-size one? Is pasta a reasonable substitute for fish? Is shopping at a discount store a reasonable substitute for shopping at a high-end department store?

Continued on page 7.

Chained CPI: It's Not a Technicality; It's a COLA Cut (Continued from page 6)

We're not just talking about price substitution here. It's also about quality-of-life substitution, and that's where MOAA thinks a line must be drawn.

Over time, this mentality leads to substantial changes in living patterns — from steak to hamburger to hot dogs to ... let's not go there. While critics might argue this wouldn't actually happen, there's no practical safeguard to prevent it. If A can be substituted for B, then B later can be substituted for C, once you've accepted the substitution philosophy.

Let's look beyond the philosophy to the bottom line. The chained CPI would reduce retired pay and other COLAs by about one-quarter of a percentage point each year. That doesn't sound like much, until you see how that would compound over a retiree's lifetime.

Military retirees and the disabled particularly would be affected because they start drawing inflation-adjusted pay at relatively younger ages. For a military retiree, switching to a chained CPI COLA would reduce total lifetime retired pay by about 6 percent. That's about \$100,000 for an E-7 retiring today with 20 years of service. A newly retiring O-5 with 20 years of service would lose double that amount. And that's for someone living an average lifespan (early 80s). Half will live longer, and expected longevity is rising every year.

Three other factors are relevant here, as well.

First, the Bureau of Labor Statistics already made a change to allow some relatively modest substitutions (of the peas and carrots variety) several years ago.

Second, when COLA changes (delays) previously were proposed in the 1990s, the outcry from seniors successfully won an exemption for Social Security, leaving COLA penalties to fall disproportionately on military retirees.

Third, smaller COLAs aren't the only penalty of the chained CPI, because it also would be used for tax threshold adjustments. Smaller annual tax-bracket adjustments mean ... guess what? More people shifting into higher tax brackets every year.

For all of these reasons, MOAA is not a fan of the chained CPI. Some think it's the lesser of the evils we might face during the coming fiscal crunch, and that might well be true. But that doesn't make it right.

If you agree, please use MOAA's suggested message to urge your elected officials to avoid options like the chained CPI that disproportionately affect those who already have sacrificed the most for their country.

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Grassroots Support for MOAA!!

Reject the Chained CPI

Many in the Administration and in Congress are seriously considering modifying cost-of-living adjustments to federal annuities and federal tax brackets by shifting to a so-called "chained CPI."

This methodology effectively suppresses rising inflation by allowing substitution of less-costly items when prices of various products and services rise. By depressing annual inflation one-quarter of a percentage point every year, it would cost military retirees \$100,000 to \$200,000 or more over the course of their lives.

Please use the message below to urge your elected officials to find other ways to ease rising deficits:

"I am writing to urge you to reject the "chained CPI" as a budget-cutting measure.

While it would seem only a small penalty for the short-term, it would impose large long-term penalties on millions of people who depend on inflation-adjusted annuities to protect them from purchasing power erosion over the course of several decades.

Among the groups hit hardest would be wounded warriors, the disabled, and retired military families who already have contributed decades of service and sacrifice through hot and cold wars to protect the rest of America. Over time, the chained CPI would cost the latter group \$100,000 to \$200,000 or more in lifetime income.

As we struggle to address the nation's rising deficits, please do all you can to avoid initiatives like the chained CPI that impose disproportional penalties on those who already have sacrificed the most for America

The Truth About Cell Phones And The Do Not Call Registry (www.ftc.com — the Federal Trade Commission)

The Federal Trade Commission today reiterated that despite the claims made in e-mails circulating on the Internet, consumers should not be concerned that their cell phone numbers will be released to telemarketers in the near future, and that it is not necessary to register cell phone numbers on the National Do Not Call (DNC) Registry to be protected from most telemarketing calls to cell phones.

The truth about cell phones and the DNC Registry is:

- Contrary to the e-mail, cell phone numbers are NOT being released to telemarketers, and you will NOT soon be getting telemarketing calls on your cell phone.
- There is NO deadline by which you must register your cell phone number on the Registry.
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers on their cell phones without their consent.
- The national associations representing telemarketers have stated that their members do not intend to start calling consumers' cell phones.
- There is only ONE National DNC Registry. There is no separate registry for cell phones.
- The DNC Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land lines. You must call from the phone number that you want to register. If you register online, you must respond to a confirmation e-mail.
- While the telecommunications industry has been discussing the possibility of creating a wireless 411 directory, according to the FCC, even if a wireless 411 directory is established, most telemarketing calls to cell phones would still be illegal, regardless of whether the number is listed on the federal government's Do Not Call Registry.

In addition, according to the industry:

- Your number would not be included in a wireless 411 directory unless you wanted it to be (i.e., you will have to "opt-in"); and the wireless 411 directory would not be available in a printed, electronic, or Internet list for telemarketers. In other words, a list of numbers on the wireless 411 directory would not be made available to telemarketers.

FTC: National Do Not Call Registry Accepts Both Cell Phone and Home Phone Numbers

The Federal Trade Commission reminds consumers that the National Do Not Call Registry has accepted personal cell phone and home phone number registrations since it opened for consumer registrations in June 2003. There is no deadline to register a home or cell phone number on the Registry.

How To Register Your Number

- **Two easy ways:**
 - Visit www.DoNotCall.gov. Enter your phone number and email address. Click Submit. Confirm your information and click Register. Open your email message from Register@donotcall.gov. Click on the link to complete your registration.
 - Call 1-888-382-1222 from the number you wish to register.

See Flyer Below: Fundraising Auction at Gainesville Country Club on 16 October at 4:30PM;
All American Liberty Fest at Santa Fe College on 6 November. Support these important events.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE
TWO PATRIOTIC EVENTS!

2ND ANNUAL

ALL
AMERICAN
LIBERTY
FEST

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

AT SANTA FE COLLEGE



AUCTION

You are invited to the All American Liberty Fest Auction. Join us as we salute the Veterans of Alachua County. Remember Freedom isn't free!

WHERE: Gainesville Country Club

WHEN: October 16th, 2011

TIME: 4:30pm - 7:30pm

FOOD: Hors d'oeuvres

ADMISSION: \$15 per person/\$25 per couple

Dress for the evening will be casual Patriotic attire. There will be complimentary beer
a cash bar.

RSVP: 352-395-5506 or auction@americanlibertyfest.org

(Please RSVP by October 10th)

www.americanlibertyfest.org

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USAF Ret)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011

Chapter Social Functions and Meetings

- Thursday, 10 February 2011— Sweetheart Dinner (Valentine's Event), at Gainesville Country Club. Social Hour: 6:00pm—Dinner: 6:30pm
- Monday, 2 May — Cinco de Mayo Dinner at Mexico Lindo Restaurant. Social Hour: 6:00pm—Dinner: 6:30pm
- June — Joint Member/Spouse Luncheon — Date/Details TBA
- July/August — no events.
- Thursday, 6 October 2011— Joint Member/Spouse Luncheon — at Gainesville Country Club. Social hour 11:30am— Lunch at noon. Speaker Lieutenant General John M. LeMoyné, USA (Retired) .
- Friday, 11 November— Veteran's Day Picnic, at Ginnie Springs at 2:30pm
- Thursday, 15 December—Holiday Dinner, at Gainesville Country Club. Social Hour: 6:30pm— Dinner: 7pm

Military Officer's Wives (MOW) 2011

(Social Hour 11:30am— Lunch 12pm)

- Tuesday, 25 January— Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club [Fisher House Presentation]
- Tuesday, 22 March— Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club, Stein Mart Fashion show
- Tuesday, 24 May— Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club
- Tuesday, 25 October — Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club

Medical Corner—Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

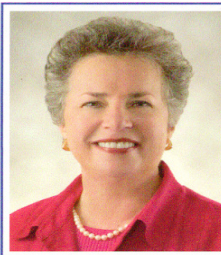
September is **National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month**.

Men, what can you do to be one of the survivors rather than one of the deaths?

The American Cancer Society's estimates for prostate cancer in the United States for 2011: about 240,890 new cases. There will be about 33,720 deaths from prostate cancer. One man in 6 will get prostate cancer during his lifetime. And one man in 36 will die of this disease. Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer found in American men, with skin cancer being the first. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in men, behind only lung cancer.

More than 2 million men in the United States who have had prostate cancer at some point are still alive today. Routine preventative checkups are the key. The early detection of prostate cancer when it is a very treatable cancer is the key. The 5-year survival rate for prostate cancer is 100% if treated early, but the rate drops to 32% if the cancer was not detected early and has spread to other parts of the body.

As early detection is a key to the successful treatment, every man should have an annual medical exam that includes the test for prostate cancer. Your annual exam should include both a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test and a digital rectal exam (DRE). Prostate cancer usually doesn't have symptoms in the early stages and that is why regular screening is important. Detection early allows for much broader treatment options. These options include several types of radiation and surgeries and other options.



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