



USAF MSC Association **NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST 2010

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I told you when elected that I was honored to serve as your Chairman. The response of our membership in support of a fund raising effort this past May for Gail Acker, made me extraordinarily proud to be your Chairman. Gail, wife of Colonel (retired) Brian Acker, lost her battle with cancer a few days after the fund raiser, but the funds raised went to further the causes of the American Cancer Society. When we sent the EMAIL blast to our membership, telling them about the Relay for Life race, "Gail's Eagles" had raised about \$2,900. A few days after the MSC Association notice, the total was \$7,895, and "Gail's Eagles" were the #1 fund-raising team for this event. Our deepest condolences go out to Brian and his family. My thanks to all our members for the quick response to a fellow member in need.

In the last Newsletter we announced that our 2011 biennial reunion would be held in Scottsdale, Arizona. Thanks to the Reunion Committee, led by Colonel (retired) Debra Cavanaugh and Colonel (retired) Tim Morgan, we have nailed down dates and a venue. Current plans are to hold the 2011 reunion at The Cottonwoods Resort, October 7-9 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). You can check out the resort at <http://www.scottsdalecottonwoods.com/>. I think you will find it to be a unique property that will allow us to meet and enjoy each others' company unlike any other place we have been (at least since I have been attending). Combined with a very reasonable room rate, I think we are working on another winner! Our reunions just keep getting better and

better, and I think the 2011 version will set another milestone. As details become available, you can see them first on our web site at <http://www.msassoc.org>.

One last piece of information I found both interesting and uplifting. San Antonio is now the home of Morgan's Wonderland. It is described on their web site as the World's First Ultra Accessible Family Fun Park designed specifically for children and adults with special needs. This brand new 25-acre park is a unique oasis that through the spirit of inclusion, allows people of all abilities to play, learn and share life changing experiences together in a fun and safe environment. "Finally, a place where EVERYONE can play!"

I am sharing this for two reasons. First, if you know families with special needs members, let them know about Morgan's Wonderland. Check out their web site at <http://www.morganswonderland.com/>. The price is right – FREE for individuals with special needs, \$5 for family or friends accompanying a special needs person, and \$15 for all others. Reservations are required before each visit. Second, the Park is always looking for volunteers to help keep their rates low. Morgan's Wonderland is located just northeast of downtown San Antonio at Thousand Oaks and Wurzbach Parkway (the former site of the Longhorn Quarry, directly across from Heroes Stadium, the new North East ISD Stadium and Sports complex). Make reservations on line or by calling (210) 637-3434. The Volunteer contact number is (210) 495-5888 or toll free (877) 495-5888. Enjoy the Newsletter!

Jim Moreland, Association Chairman

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the time of year when children start to get ready to return to school. Then fall is just around the corner. I hope each of you took the time this summer to smell the roses. I hope you took trips to visit family and friends, did things with your children, and for some of us, enjoyed spending time with grandchildren. And on the 4th of July I trust that we all took the time to thank our God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us and this great nation.

What comes to mind when you hear the word “family?” The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines family as “... the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children...a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head: Household... a group of persons of common ancestry... a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation: Fellowship.”

I like to think of the MSC Association as a family. Our MSC family includes all of the MSCs serving on active duty, the Air National Guard, and the Reserves as well as all of those MSCs who retired from active duty, the Air National Guard, and the Reserves. Our family includes spouses and surviving spouses of both active and retired MSCs. To me the MSC Association embodies the meaning of family.

Take a moment to review your membership roster. Is the name of one or more of your fellow MSCs missing? I challenge you to ask them to join or surprise them with a gift membership. Help us to document, preserve and disseminate historical information about the Corps. The Corps is what it is today because of your contributions. If you need any promotional material or an application blank see our web site at <http://www.mscassociation.org/>. If you do not have a computer, call me and I will send you any information you want.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2011 reunion in beautiful Scottsdale, AZ, 7-9 October 2011.



As reported in our April 2010 Newsletter, Art Small received the Commitment to Excellence Award (Retiree Category). He was recognized for his extraordinary service to the Association and the military community at the Air Force Awards Banquet held in Chicago this past

March at the Air Force Awards Banquet held in Chicago. This photo was not made available until after the publication of the April Newsletter. Shown in this photo is Corps Chief, Brigadier General Michael Miller, making the presentation of the award to Lt Colonel Small. Again Art, congratulations for this well deserved recognition. This is the seventh year the Association has nominated a retiree to the Corps Chief for this award.

Joe Vocks, Association President

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER AND HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HSA) COURSE AWARD WINNER!

1st Lt Benjamin Meighan was voted by his fellow HSA classmates to be the Class 10-C Team Builder Award winner. Our Association sponsors the Team Builder Award, and every winner gets a "lifetime" membership in our Association, contingent on remaining in the Corps. Ben claims Lexington, KY, as his hometown. He is assigned to the 2d Medical Group at Barksdale AFB, LA, where he is the Medical Logistics Flight Commander. Ben is married and he and his wife Alicia, have a son, Emery. As an interesting aside, Alicia, too, is an active duty Air Force Captain working in intelligence.



Prior to joining the Air Force, Ben worked at the Kapiolani Medical Center at Pali Momi, in Honolulu, and as a Medical Device Representative for ConMed Linvatec, in Augusta, Georgia. Ben earned his undergraduate degree from West Virginia University and his graduate degree from the University of Hawaii. Welcome to the MSC Association Ben. You're off to a great start as an Air Force Medical Service Corps officer.

USE CAUTION WHEN CHOOSING PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS

By

**William M. Copeland, M.S., J.D., Ph.D., LFACHE
General Counsel, USAF MSC Association**

Quite often, particularly when advising clients regarding planning for nursing home care and Medicaid eligibility to pay for that care, I recommend the purchase of a burial plot and a pre-paid burial insurance policy. After all, these items are non-countable assets when applying for Medicaid eligibility and the major portion of nursing home care in this country is paid for by Medicaid.

In addition, funeral expenses are a very costly item, usually running in the range of \$6,000, plus another \$4,000 or so for flowers, obituary notices, acknowledgment cards, limousines, etc. Many people plan their own funerals, thereby relieving family members of that responsibility during the grief period. Adding a pre-paid funeral plan to this planning process is a very sensible plan of action. Nevertheless, one must be extremely careful when buying these plans.

Many plans sold are virtually worthless, and sometimes the funds are misspent and mismanaged by the funeral directors and others who sell these plans. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) provided some protection to consumers from unscrupulous funeral providers with the creation of Funeral Rule in 1984. This Rule requires funeral providers to give consumers accurate, itemized price information and other specific disclosures about funeral goods and services.

According to the Funeral Rule:

- You have the right to choose the funeral goods and services you want (with exceptions).
- The funeral provider must state this right in writing on the general price list.
- If state or local law requires you to buy any particular item, the funeral provider must disclose it on the price list, with a reference to the specific law.
- The funeral provider may not refuse, or charge a fee, to handle a casket you bought elsewhere.
- A funeral provider that offers cremations must make alternative containers available.

That notwithstanding, however, because many of the features of prepaid burial contracts are governed solely by state law, the rule does not apply to every aspect of a these contracts.

The FTC recommends asking the following questions before buying a prepaid burial contract:

- What are you are paying for? Are you buying only merchandise, like a casket and vault, or are you purchasing funeral services as well?
- What happens to the money you've prepaid? States have different requirements for handling funds paid for prearranged funeral services.
- What happens to the interest income on money that is prepaid and put into a trust account?
- Are you protected if the firm you dealt with goes out of business?
- Can you cancel the contract and get a full refund if you change your mind?
- What happens if you move to a different area or die while away from home? Some prepaid funeral plans can be transferred, but often at an added cost.

The questions are from the FTC's excellent "*Funerals: A Consumer Guide*," which can be found at: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro19.shtm.

In addition, the FTC advises:

- Be sure to tell your family about the plans you've made; let them know where the documents are filed. If your family isn't aware that you've made plans, your wishes may not be carried out. And if family members don't know that you've prepaid the funeral costs, they could end up paying for the same arrangements. You may wish to consult an attorney on the best way to ensure that your wishes are followed.
- An alternative to buying a prepaid burial plan is to set up a payable-on-death account (POD) with your bank. You can make the executor of your estate the beneficiary, or if the person who will be handling your funeral arrangements is someone else, make them the beneficiary. At any rate, make sure they know your plans. Control of your money while you are alive rests with you, but it is available immediately when you die and does not have to go through probate.
- You can also obtain price information from funeral homes by telephone. The FTC's Funeral Rule requires funeral directors to provide price information over the phone to any caller who asks for it.

Additionally, most states have a state board that licenses funeral homes. Those agencies are excellent sources for additional information should you have questions.

The FTC has the following advice for planning for a funeral:

- Shop around in advance. Compare prices from at least two funeral homes. Remember that you can supply your own casket or urn.
- Ask for a price list. The law requires funeral homes to give you written price lists for products and services.
- Resist pressure to buy goods and services you don't really want or need.
- Avoid emotional overspending. It's not necessary to have the fanciest casket or the most elaborate funeral to properly honor a loved one.
- Recognize your rights. Laws regarding funerals and burials vary from state to state. It's a smart move to know which goods or services the law requires you to purchase and which are optional.
- Apply the same smart shopping techniques you use for other major purchases. You can cut costs by limiting the viewing to one day or one hour before the funeral, and by dressing your loved one in a favorite outfit instead of costly burial clothing.
- Plan ahead. It allows you to comparison shop without time constraints, creates an opportunity for family discussion, and lifts some of the burden from your family.

On the web site referenced above, the FTC provides an excellent form that can be copied and used to compare prices. I recommend using it as a planning tool when price shopping.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF HOW TAPS CAME TO BE

We all are familiar with the historical background of how Taps came to be. We've even had the story of how taps came to be in a previous edition of the MSC Association Newsletter. But, on this special occasion, we are pleased to embellish it further by providing all three stanzas of Taps. Near the bottom, as you scroll down, are the words contained in the first stanza that comes to mind at sundown.



If you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played; this brings out a whole new meaning.

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps...' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.



Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain risked his life to bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and pulled him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier; it was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy joined the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born. The words are:

*Day is done.
Gone the sun.
From the lakes.
From the hills.
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest
God is nigh.*

*Fading light.
Dims the sight.
And a star.
Gems the sky.
Gleaming bright.
From afar.
Drawing nigh.
Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise.
For our Days.
Neath the sun
Neath the stars.
Neath the sky.
As we go.
This we know.
God is nigh.*

Many of us have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I, like many of you, have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I knew about the story behind the song, but I didn't know if you had, so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

A Janitor's Ten Lessons in Leadership



By James Moschgat, Col, USAF (Ret)

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William “Bill” Crawford certainly was an unimpressive figure, one you could easily overlook during a hectic day at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Mr. Crawford, as most of us referred to him back in the late 1970s, was our squadron janitor.

While we cadets busied ourselves preparing for academic exams, athletic events, Saturday morning parades and room inspections, or never-ending leadership classes, Bill quietly moved about the squadron mopping and buffing floors, emptying trash cans, cleaning toilets, or just tidying up the mess 100 college-age kids can leave in a dormitory.

Sadly, and for many years, few of us gave him much notice, rendering little more than a passing nod or throwing a curt, “G’morning!” in his direction as we hurried off to our daily duties.

Why? Perhaps it was because of the way he did his job – he always kept the squadron area spotlessly clean, even the toilets and showers gleamed. Frankly, he did his job so well, none of us had to notice or get involved. After all, cleaning toilets was his job, not ours.

Maybe it was his physical appearance that made him disappear into the background. Bill didn't move very quickly and, in fact, you could say he even shuffled a bit, as if he suffered from some sort of injury. His gray hair and wrinkled face made him appear ancient to a group of young cadets. And his crooked smile, well, it looked a little funny. Face it, Bill was an old man working in a young person's world. What did he have to offer us on a personal level?

Finally, maybe it was Mr. Crawford's personality that rendered him almost invisible to the young people around him. Bill was shy, almost painfully so. He seldom spoke to a cadet unless they addressed him first, and that didn't happen very often. Our janitor always buried himself in his work, moving about with stooped shoulders, a quiet gait, and an averted gaze. If he noticed the hustle and bustle of cadet life around him, it was hard to tell.

So, for whatever reason, Bill blended into the woodwork and became just another fixture around the squadron. The Academy, one of our nation's premier leadership laboratories, kept us busy from dawn till dusk. And Mr. Crawford...well, he was just a janitor.

That changed one fall Saturday afternoon in 1976. I was reading a book about World War II and the tough Allied ground campaign in Italy, when I stumbled across an incredible story. On Sept. 13, 1943, a Private William Crawford from Colorado, assigned to the 36th Infantry Division, had been involved in some bloody fighting on Hill 424 near Altavilla, Italy.

The words on the page leapt out at me: "in the face of intense and overwhelming hostile fire – with no regard for personal safety – on his own initiative, Private Crawford single-handedly attacked fortified enemy positions." It continued, "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, the President of the United States ..."

"Holy cow," I said to my roommate, "you're not going to believe this, but I think our janitor is a Medal of Honor winner." We all knew Mr. Crawford was a WWII Army vet, but that didn't keep my friend from looking at me as if I was some sort of alien being. Nonetheless, we couldn't wait to ask Bill about the story on Monday.

We met Mr. Crawford bright and early Monday and showed him the page in question from the book, anticipation and doubt on our faces. He stared at it for a few silent moments and then quietly uttered something like, "Yep, that's me." Mouths agape, my roommate and I looked at one another, then at the book, and quickly back at our janitor. Almost at once we both stuttered, "Why didn't you ever tell us about it?" He slowly replied after some thought, "That was one day in my life and it happened a long time ago." I guess we were all at a loss for words after that. We had to hurry off to class and Bill, well; he had chores to attend to.

However, after that brief exchange, things were never again the same around our squadron. Word spread like wildfire among the cadets that we had a hero in our midst – Mr. Crawford, our janitor, had won The Medal! Cadets who had once passed by Bill with hardly a glance, now greeted him with a smile and a respectful, "Good morning, Mr. Crawford."

Those who had before left a mess for the "janitor" to clean up started taking it upon themselves to put things in order. Most cadets routinely stopped to talk to Bill throughout the day and we even began inviting him to our formal squadron functions. He'd show up dressed in a conservative dark suit and quietly talk to those who approached him, the only sign of his heroics being a simple blue, star-spangled lapel pin. Almost overnight, Bill went from being a simple fixture in our squadron to one of our teammates.

Mr. Crawford changed too, but you had to look closely to notice the difference. After that fall day in 1976, he seemed to move with more purpose, his shoulders didn't seem to be as stooped, he met our greetings with a direct gaze and a stronger "good morning" in return, and he flashed his crooked smile more often.

The squadron gleamed as always, but everyone now seemed to notice it more. Bill even got to know most of us by our first names, something that didn't happen often at the Academy. While no one ever formally acknowledged the change, I think we became Bill's cadets and his squadron.

As often happens in life, events sweep us away from those in our past. The last time I saw Bill was on graduation day in June 1977. As I walked out of the squadron for the last time, he shook my hand and simply said, "Good luck, young man."

With that, I embarked on a career that has been truly lucky and blessed. Mr. Crawford continued to work at the Academy and eventually retired in his native Colorado where he resides today, one of four Medal of Honor winners living in a small town.

A wise person once said, "It's not life that's important, but those you meet along the way that make the difference." Bill was one who made a difference for me. While I haven't seen Mr. Crawford in over twenty years, he'd probably be surprised to know I think of him often. Bill Crawford, our janitor, taught me many valuable, unforgettable leadership lessons. Here are ten I'd like to share with you.

Be Cautious of Labels. Labels you place on people may define your relationship to them and bound their potential. Sadly, and for a long time, we labeled Bill as just a janitor, but he was so much more. Therefore, be cautious of a leader who callously says, "Hey, he's just an Airman." Likewise, don't tolerate the O-1, who says, "I can't do that, I'm just a lieutenant."

Everyone Deserves Respect. Because we hung the "janitor" label on Mr. Crawford, we often wrongly treated him with less respect than others around us. He deserved much more, and not just because he was a Medal of Honor winner. Bill deserved respect because he was a janitor, walked among us, and was a part of our team.

Courtesy Makes a Difference. Be courteous to all around you, regardless of rank or position. Military customs, as well as common courtesies, help bond a team. When our daily words to Mr. Crawford turned from perfunctory "hellos" to heartfelt greetings, his demeanor and personality outwardly changed. It made a difference for all of us.

Take Time to Know Your People. Life in the military is hectic, but that's no excuse for not knowing the people you work for and with. For years a hero walked among us at the Academy and we never knew it. Who are the heroes that walk in your midst?

Anyone Can Be a Hero. Mr. Crawford certainly didn't fit anyone's standard definition of a hero. Moreover, he was just a private on the day he won his Medal. Don't sell your people short, for any one of them may be the hero who rises to the occasion when duty calls. On the other hand, it's easy to turn to your proven performers when the chips are down, but don't ignore the rest of the team. Today's rookie could and should be tomorrow's superstar.

Leaders Should Be Humble. Most modern day heroes and some leaders are anything but humble, especially if you calibrate your “hero meter” on today’s athletic fields. End zone celebrations and self-aggrandizement are what we’ve come to expect from sports greats. Not Mr. Crawford – he was too busy working to celebrate his past heroics. Leaders would be well-served to do the same.

Life Won’t Always Hand You What You Think You Deserve. We in the military work hard and, dang it, we deserve recognition, right? However, sometimes you just have to persevere, even when accolades don’t come your way. Perhaps you weren’t nominated for junior officer or airman of the quarter as you thought you should – don’t let that stop you. Don’t pursue glory; pursue excellence. Private Bill Crawford didn’t pursue glory; he did his duty and then swept floors for a living.

No Job is Beneath a Leader. If Bill Crawford, a Medal of Honor winner, could clean latrines and smile, is there a job beneath your dignity? Think about it.

Pursue Excellence. No matter what task life hands you, do it well. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “If life makes you a street sweeper, be the best street sweeper you can be.” Mr. Crawford modeled that philosophy and helped make our dormitory area a home.

Life is a Leadership Laboratory. All too often we look to some school or PME class to teach us about leadership when, in fact, life is a leadership laboratory. Those you meet every day will teach you enduring lessons if you just take time to stop, look and listen. I spent four years at the Air Force Academy, took dozens of classes, read hundreds of books, and met thousands of great people. I gleaned leadership skills from all of them, but one of the people I remember most is Mr. Bill Crawford and the lessons he unknowingly taught. Don’t miss your opportunity to learn.

Bill Crawford was a janitor. However, he was also a teacher, friend, role model and one great American hero. Thanks, Mr. Crawford, for some valuable leadership lessons.

[Editor’s Note: At the time Col James Maschgat wrote this article, he was the Commander of the 12th Operations Group. He retired from the Air Force in June 2007. He is currently employed as the Associate Dean of Operations at the National Security Space Institute (AETC), Peterson AFB, CO. His current email address is james.moschgat@afspc.af.mil.

An addendum from Charlie Brown, our Association Secretary, provides a further insight into the life of Bill Crawford and is expressed below.

“Bill Crawford was from Palmer Lake, Colorado, about 5 miles from my home in Monument, Colorado. Here in Monument, Colorado, our Kiwanis Club has conducted a 4th of July parade for the past 15+ years. I was the Line- up Marshall and Starter for the first 8 years. Bill Crawford would be in the parade occasionally, and on his 80th birthday he was our Grand Marshal. A Memorial Wall of Honor and Freedom Committee is establishing a Memorial in Bill’s honor and for other veterans in our area. If you are interested, go to info@crawfordmemorial.org.

“MSG Crawford signed a book about the Medal of Honor Winners for my son, a Navy fighter pilot. They had, for Bill, a ‘long’ three or four minute talk and shook hands. This surprised us all as he was a very private person and a man of few words. Over the course of a few years, I would see him

at the parade and he would shake my hand and say ‘Charlie, how ya doin? You still startin this thang? I would say yes and then ask how he was doing. He would say ‘I am doin fair to middlin but that’s better than middlin to rotten.’ To this day, I still use that phrase more often than not. Sadly, MSG William Bill Crawford passed away 15 March 2000 and was buried at the USAF Academy. He touched many.”



Save the date! Mark your calendars to be at the Silver Horn Golf Club in San Antonio on Friday, 8 October 2010, to have a great time supporting a worthy cause while enjoying camaraderie with old and new friends.

The entry fee is \$50.00 per player, and includes green fees, cart fees, entry for door prizes and a box lunch/beverage ticket.

There are lots of raffle prizes to be won, as well as prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams, longest drive (men and women), and closest to the pin.

Potential tournament sponsors and players should e-mail Capt Neva VanDerSchaegen at wagnergolftournament@gmail.com for event details, and to be added to the mailing list for tournament updates. Thanks for your support!

MOAA COLA UPDATE

Hot off the presses – MOAA COLA update as of 23 July 2010. Sorry to report, but inflation dropped only 0.1% in June. Unless that trend is reversed significantly in the next three months, prospects are dimming for any retiree COLA in 2011. Check out the month-to-month trends on MOAA’s COLA Watch.

[Source: MOAA | 23 July 2010].

THE STORY OF THE HIJACKED CORPS CHIEF

By Ken Mackie

The time was Spring/Summer 1982 or 1983. Major Page Armstrong (NC) was assigned to the USAF Hospital March in Riverside, CA. Her husband, Major Bob Armstrong (MSC) was assigned to the AF IG at Norton AFB, San Bernardino, CA. Major Ken Mackie (MSC) was the administrator at Norton Clinic and his wife, Captain Jeanne Mackie (NC) was a reservist at Norton who generally did Reserve duty at March as she was an OR nurse. The Armstrong's and the Mackie's lived in Redlands, CA, a beautiful residential suburb of San Bernardino and about 25 min from March AFB CA.

A Hospital Dining In was planned at March AFB and the guest speaker was Brig Gen Don Wagner, MSC Corps Chief. The "Redlands Four" rode together to March AFB in a yellow 1982 Plymouth Duster (seats six) nicknamed "The MaryMobile" as it was purchased from Col Mary Giniewski (NC) as she PCS'd from Hickam AFB. The four of us were especially pleased with the prospect of seeing Gen Wagner, of whom we all thought so highly.

We arrived at the March AFB O' Club about 15 minutes into the cocktail hour and as we entered, all the guests were standing at attention at their places in the ballroom waiting for the posting of the colors. Seems as though the hospital commander was a rather conservative sort and preferred a very brief cocktail hour! After the colors were posted we found our table and took our seats. We complained and sniveled bitterly among ourselves because we didn't have a chance to get a drink or glass of wine before the dinner chimes were rung.

At the conclusion of the event, the mess was declared closed, and everyone in the room seemed to head towards the bar en masse, having had little opportunity to visit there beforehand! Page and Jeanne instructed Bob and Ken to go get some wine and they went in search of Gen Wagner to say hi. About 15 minutes later, finally successful in our wine procurement assignment, we headed back, four glasses in hand, to where the girls should have been and they came towards us with Gen Wagner in tow. "Forget that wine", they said. "We're outta here." Seems they had hijacked the general and were making their break.



We did as we were instructed – MSCs take direction well – and beat a hasty exit to the parking lot and "The MaryMobile." After a quick stop at the March DVOQ where Gen Wagner picked up his suitcase, we were off to the Mackies' in Redlands for the 100 degree spa and some of California's finest jug red wine! When we were all cooked about medium, the Armstrong's departed for their home with Gen Wagner for a brief night's sleep. Bright and early the next morning, they took Gen Wagner back to March to meet his San Antonio-bound T-39.

We never did let the March crowd know how this successful operation was so masterfully executed by the clandestine “Redlands Four.”

The “Redland’s Four” (l to r): Bob Armstrong, Jeanne Mackie, Page Armstrong, Don Wagner working on achieving “medium done” status in the spa.

SUPPORT THE US CEMETERY ON CLARK AB, PHILIPPINES

There is a cemetery on Clark Air Base, which has grave sites pre-dating 1900. Until late 1991, when the USAF moved out of Clark, the cemetery was maintained by the base. From 1991-94, it was maintained by no one. The local VFW Post (2485), located very near the old Clark Air Base, asked for, and was granted permission, to take over the maintenance of the facility in 1994, and has covered the cost of maintenance since. This is accomplished, mostly, through private donations. Reports from Post members still in Angeles City say it is well maintained, though in need of some upgrades.

The Clark cemetery is the only locale where the American Flag still flies in this area, except for the U.S. Embassy. It has tremendous historical value, and also, to this day, serves as the burial place for Veterans, dependents and Filipinos, such as the Philippine Scouts. There is an active organization titled "Grave Diggers," operated through the local VFW Post. Lifetime membership is \$25.00. Please consider joining. It is a worthy cause. Any of you who have been stationed at Clark, likely know someone entombed there. For those who have never been at Clark, rest assured that your money will be well spent. There are no administrative fees associated with the program. All money collected goes directly to staff salaries and upkeep. According to information on the Post 2485 website, expenses are running over \$1,000 a month.

To donate, go to the URL below and look for the link for "Grave Diggers," located in the third section on the left side of the home page. There, you can download an application form to mail with a check for \$25.00 (or more if you like). In return, you will receive a pin, and membership documentation. If you know others who may be interested in joining, please share this information with them.

It's a worthy cause. The Link is: <http://www.vfwpost2485.com/>

Note from the Chairman: I joined the Grave Diggers and contributed recently. I noticed Colonel Brian Duffy’s name out there too. As a side note, Lt Col Brooks was an 18 year old Airman at Clark when I was the Director of Medical Logistics as a Captain. He has done well! Most all of the medical logistics crew from Clark during that time remains in close contact. It was an awesome team!

Contributed by Lt Col John R. Brooks, USAF, MSC (Ret).

**DALE DAVENPORT NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN OF
ADMINISTRATION AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE**

Tom Campbell passed along this bit of news regarding Lt Col Dale Davenport, MSC (Ret). Tom Campbell and Dale Davenport were classmates at the MSC School in 1975. Tom thought this item would be of interest to our readers. For those of you who personally know Dale, you might drop him a line and congratulate him on this achievement. He can be contacted at 602 Downing Court, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005 or at email address Dale.Davenport@cox.net [Editor].



Dale Davenport was recently (Dec 2009) named associate dean of administration for the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska.

He has served as senior administrator for Creighton's Department of Medicine since 1996. In his new position, Davenport will help manage the School of Medicine's operating budget, assist in oversight of general institutional administration for the school, and serve as a liaison between the medical dean and a variety of internal and external audiences.

Davenport joined Creighton University in 1993, serving as administrator for the School of Medicine's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 1993-1996, and as administrator for the School of Dentistry, 1995-96. In 2007, he earned the University's Distinguished Administrator Award.

Davenport holds a master's degree in health services administration from George Washington University. He is involved in numerous professional organizations and serves as vice president of the Sarpy and Cass County Board of Health and on the board of the Missouri Valley Community Cancer Consortium. He is a member of the Creighton University Medical Center's Strategic Planning Committee and Task Force on Primary Care.

Contributed by Major Tom Campbell, MSC (Retired)

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER SAFETY

Keep your Social Security number's last four digits secret. You are only legally required to give out your Social Security number (SSN) when applying for new financial accounts, to an employer or for governmental purposes. The last four digits combined with your name and address could be used to obtain a wealth of information.

Safety: Ask why a company would need your SSN – if you are not comfortable with the answer, seek an alternative company or use another means of ID.

Source: *Bottom Line/Retirement* interviewed Linda Foley, founder, Identity Theft Resource Center, San Diego, www.idtheftcenter.org.

Don't have negative thoughts about things you cannot control.
Instead, invest your energy in the positive present moment.



SOUNDING TAPS

*Lt Col	V. Harry Adrounie	February 2010
*Colonel	Paul S. Cox	20 April 2010
Lt Col	Raymond A. Gardner	March 2010
Lt Col	Raymond L. Hodges	February 2010
Major	Joseph B. James	March 2010
*Lt Col	Tomlin P. Kendrick	October 2009
Major	Robert E. Lee	March 2010
Colonel	Russell H. Miller	March 2010
*Lt Col	Charles L. Silliman	28 June 2010
Major	Jack L. Whentry	December 2009
Lt Col	Joseph E. Willett	Unknown
*Major	John R. Yates	13 April 2010
*Colonel	George Zinneman	29 March 2010

* Denotes Life Member Status

IN MEMORIAM

Thelma Baker, widow of Colonel Wesley H. Baker (deceased), passed away on 21 March 2010. Funeral services were conducted at the Resurrection Episcopal Church in Windcrest, Texas. Graveside services were conducted at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery where Wes is buried.



Gail M. Acker, passed away on Tuesday, 25 May 2010, at her home in Burke, Virginia, surrounded by her loving family. Funeral services were conducted on Saturday, 29 May 2010 at 11AM at the Philip J. Brendese Funeral Home in Waterford, Virginia, with funeral services conducted at noon at the St. Henry's Church, Averill Park, Virginia.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM BRIAN ACKER

Note from the Chairman: Shortly before Gail Acker's passing, I received two EMAILs from her husband; Colonel (retired) Brian Acker. One thanking the Association for the wonderful response to my message about sponsoring "Gail's Eagles," a team of Washington DC area MSCs raising money in his wife Gail's name. The second was to share a "Caring Bridge" web link where you can read and contribute your thoughts and prayers.

Excerpts from both EMAILS follow:

Dear Association Members –

I am speechless. How wonderful the outpouring of support has been – I just don't know if I could ever thank you and the Association enough for the support we have received.

Early in Gail's diagnosis, I was told of a website called "Caring Bridge". It is a free website that is a blog of sorts for families who wish to keep families and friends informed of their loved one with a life threatening illness. The website and specific link to Gail's site is provided below.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/gailacker/journal>

Feel free to share this website with the membership – the journal entries have provided me a release of my worry and stress I have often and still face, and the guest book entries, in which Gail has read up to three weeks ago, have given her strength and continued faith in friends, family and moreover God, by the outpouring of prayers the site has encouraged.

Again, thanks for your support. I continue my vigil by her side and the thoughts and prayers continue to keep me strong for her in her final days.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/gailacker/journal>

Sincerely,

Brian

VA OFFERS NEWEST EDITION OF BENEFIT HANDBOOK

Release No. 06-11-10 | June 29, 2010

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) – The 2010 edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors is available online at www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp.

Produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the handbook's chapters cover such topics as VA pensions, home loans, medals and records, special veterans groups, and other federal benefits.

People can view the handbook by individual chapters and sections, or download the entire document, in English or Spanish, in pdf format. (Courtesy of VA)

LOWE'S, HOME DEPOT NOW OFFER YEAR-ROUND DISCOUNTS

We're not choosing sides here, but if you're in the market for some appliances, hardware, tools, or building supplies, both Lowe's and Home Depot are now offering their military discounts year-round!

In addition, both companies have long-standing programs geared toward hiring service members (both active duty and retired) and their spouses, and supporting military charities. Supporting our troops, one purchase at a time!

Check it out:

The Home Depot offers a year-round, 10 percent discount, up to a \$500 maximum, to all active duty military personnel, reservists, retired or disabled veterans and their immediate families. They offer this discount to thank them for their outstanding service to our nation and to help make their homes more comfortable and safe. Customers requesting this discount are required to present a valid military ID. These discounts are not available to our online shoppers or in addition to existing discounts or promotions.

Lowe's Companies, Inc., recently announced that they will expand its support of the military by offering an all day, every day 10 percent discount to all military personnel who are active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members, with a valid military ID card. All other military veterans will receive the 10 percent discount on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day weekends. The discount is available on in-stock and Special Order purchases up to \$5,000. Excluded from the discount are sales via Lowe.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards.

AIR FORCE CIVILIAN SERVICE WEBSITE REVEALS DEPTH, INNOVATION TO FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

Release No. 07-04-10 | July 21, 2010

By April Rowden | Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs Office

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFRNS) – Jobseekers unfamiliar with the civilian employment opportunities within the Air Force now have a new online resource that defines the numerous career fields and outlines many of the benefits of being a federal employee working side by side with uniformed Airmen.

The site, www.afciviliancareers.com, contains practical information for those interested in applying for a federal job within the Air Force Civilian Service, or AFCS, including various hiring authorities, base locations, career field descriptions, employee benefits and application procedures. There is also information specifically geared toward hiring veterans and disabled veterans.

“The Air Force has always relied on the civilian work force to meet the mission. With new organizations standing up and an overall net gain in civilian positions, we hope more people will look at all the benefits we have to offer and consider applying with us,” said Michelle LoweSolis, director of civilian force integration at the Air Force Personnel Center.

One of the highlights of the website is a Job Match Machine. By entering educational background or specific skills, the Job Match Machine will generate a list of possible career choices.

“We think this is going to be one of the most popular applications on the site,” said Mike Brosnan at AFPC. “People are often unaware of the breadth of Air Force Civilian Service careers and we’re hoping this will aid them in their job search.”

The site also has a Resume Coach that walks users through some of the most frequently asked questions: How do I get my resume to stand out? Do veterans or current federal employees have different application procedures? What should college graduates include on their resumes?

The site also features a faster-loading HTML version, or the more interactive Flash version. Look for the “underground” extras on the site for special downloads and video clips.

When visitors are ready to search for an AFCS job, clicking the “apply now” button on the home page will give them access to Air Force jobs listed on USAJOBS.gov. There, they can build their resumes, search for job vacancies, and submit their applications.

For more information, Air Force employees may call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

Related Links

Veteran Hiring: <http://www.afciviliancareers.com/careers/hiringopportunities/veterans/>

Job Match: <http://www.afciviliancareers.com/apply/jobmatch/>

Resume Coach: <http://www.afciviliancareers.com/apply/resumecoach/>

For more retiree news and information, please visit www.retirees.af.mil.

THE LAWYER

Part of rebuilding New Orleans caused residents often to be challenged with the task of tracing home titles back potentially hundreds of years. With a community rich with history stretching back over two centuries, houses have been passed along through generations of family, sometimes making it quite difficult to establish ownership. Here's a great letter an attorney wrote to the FHA on behalf of a client:

You have to love this lawyer....

A New Orleans lawyer sought an FHA loan for a client. He was told the loan would be granted if he could prove satisfactory title to a parcel of property being offered as collateral. The title to the property dated back to 1803, which took the lawyer three months to track down. After sending the information to the FHA, he received the following reply.

"Upon review of your letter adjoining your client's loan application, we note that the request is supported by an Abstract of Title. While we compliment the able manner in which you have prepared and presented the application, we must point out that you have only cleared title to the proposed collateral property back to 1803. Before final approval can be accorded, it will be necessary to clear the title back to its origin."

Annoyed, the lawyer responded as follows:

"Your letter regarding title in Case No.189156 has been received. I note that you wish to have title extended further than the 206 years covered by the present application. I was unaware that any educated person in this country, particularly those working in the property area, would not know that Louisiana was purchased by the United States from France, in 1803, the year of origin identified in our application. For the edification of uninformed FHA bureaucrats, the title to the land prior to U.S. ownership was obtained from France, which had acquired it by Right of Conquest from Spain. The land came into the possession of Spain by Right of Discovery made in the year 1492 by a sea captain named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the Spanish monarch, Queen Isabella. The good Queen Isabella, being a pious woman and almost as careful about titles as the FHA, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope before she sold her jewels to finance Columbus's expedition. Now the Pope, as I'm sure you may know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God, it is commonly accepted, created this world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to presume that God also made that part of the world called Louisiana. God, therefore, would be the owner of origin and His origins date back to before the beginning of time, the world as we know it, and the FHA. I hope you find God's original claim to be satisfactory. Now, may we have our damn loan?"

The loan was immediately approved.

Contributed by Jim Pearce.

NEVER, EVER, TICK OFF A NURSE

A big shot attorney had to spend a couple of days in the hospital. He was a royal pain to the nurses because he bossed them around just like he did his staff. None of the hospital staff wanted to have anything to do with him.

The head nurse was the only one who could stand up to him. She came into his room and announced, "I have to take your temperature." After complaining for several minutes, he finally settled down, crossed his arms and opened his mouth.

"No, I'm sorry," the nurse stated, "but for this reading, I can't use an oral thermometer." This started another round of complaining but eventually he rolled over and bared his behind.

After feeling the nurse insert the thermometer, he heard her announce, "I have to get something. Now you stay JUST LIKE THAT until I get back!" She left the door to his room open on her way out. He cursed under his breath as he heard people walking past his door, laughing. After about 20 minutes, the man's Doctor came into the room. "What's going on here?" asked the doctor.

Angrily, the man answered, "What's the matter, Doc? Haven't you ever seen someone having their temperature taken?"

After a pause, the doctor confessed – “Not with a Daffodil.”

Contributed by Col Fred Graves (Ret).

MOAA COLA UPDATE

Hot off the presses – MOAA COLA update as of 23 July 2010. Sorry to report, but inflation dropped 0.1% in June. Unless that trend is reversed significantly in the next three months, prospects are dimming for any retiree COLA in 2011. Check out the month-to-month trends on MOAA’s COLA Watch.

[Source: MOAA | 23 July 2010].

Well colleagues, we’ve done it again. Hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Newsletter. In closing, I again thank you for your continuing readership. In our April Newsletter, we asked you to submit items for future Newsletter issues. A significant number of you responded with many interesting items – a number of which are contained in this Newsletter. Keep them coming.

Be talking with you again in December 2010. WGT

**Remember yesterday, dream about tomorrow,
but live for today,
as the years pass by ever so quickly.**
