



Chapter Chatter



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

P.O Box 707

Clinton, Maryland 20735

February 2014

President's Corner

Hope everyone is doing well and you are thawing out from the extreme weather we've been having over the past few weeks. In this newsletter I will update you on what happened at our off site and meeting in Jan. At the offsite we established our calendar for 2014 which we have provided to you in this newsletter. As you review it you will note that I have laid out our entire meeting schedule for this year for your planning purposes. I have also identified our guest speakers for the February and April. Hazel Robinson has arranged to have Mr. Dwight Ferguson speak to us on pre retirement and retirement financial issues. I have included his bio in the newsletter. In April Mr. J. Byron Morris will return to finish the presentation on the Tuskegee Airman that he started in October. Those of you who had the pleasure to hear Mr. Morris at the October meeting you will know what a special event this will be as we will hear the rest of the story of the Tuskegee Airman. Our March speaker will be Col (Ret) Frank François, USA, President, Retired Military Officers Association (RMOA) a business coalition composed of retired military officers. Our last meeting for the Winter/Spring cycle will be on June 21. We will follow this with our summer recess and reconvene in September with two functions – our scheduled luncheon on September 20 and the Annual Maryland MOAA Council's annual Congressional Luncheon on September 11. We will finish 2014 with our annual Holiday luncheon on December 13.

At our last meeting we had the pleasure of having Col Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), Director, Government Relations Department at MOAA as our guest speaker. Col Hayden provided us with the latest on the current status of Veteran and Military issues on the Hill. We also finalized our ballot for the chapter leadership positions with the incumbents being re-nominated for the 2014/2015 terms of office. We will conduct our formal voting at the February meeting. It is not too late if you are interested in holding a position to nominate yourself.



(L to R—Col Steve Regner, Col Mike Hayden, LCDR Sealey, Maj John Whitman, Pres, MD MOAA)

As a reminder to everyone it is time to collect annual chapter dues for 2014. The cost is \$25.00 per member (retire/active duty/civilian) were due by 15 Dec 2013. If you have not yet paid for 2014 please do so at your earliest opportunity. You can send a check to Col Regner or you can use the new MOAA program to pay

your dues. Just go the MOAA.org and type in chapter dues payment in the search block and you will be taken to a web page which will allow you to pay via credit card your chapter dues.

TAPS

On a sad note I am sorry to inform you of the passing of Colonel Jerry A. Simmons, USA (Ret) on January 17, 2013. Col Simmons was a long time member of the Prince George's Chapter and he served faithfully for several years as the Chapter's secretary-treasurer. Col Simmons took pride in his duties as he took special care to ensure that all Chapters' finances were accounted for and books were accurate. We will miss our dear friend and colleague. May he rest in peace. Col Simmons is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lula M. Simmons; his three children Marian D. Simmons Smith, Angela R. Simmons, and Jerry A. Simmons III; and his favorite (and only) grandchild Tiffany N. Smith. Funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday, February 11th 2014 at the Ebenezer AME Church, 7707 Allentown Rd. Fort Washington, MD 20744. Viewing/Remembrances will begin at 9:00 AM. The funeral will follow at 11:00. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery with full Military honors at a later date. His complete obituary is provided at end of this newsletter.

I hope you to see many of you at our next luncheon on Saturday, February 15.

Sincerely,
Reggie

DWIGHT L. FERGUSON

Dwight L. Ferguson president of **FERGUSON FINANCIAL GROUP** is a well-known financial educator in the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area. He has developed a specialty in advising Business Owners, Federal Employees, Retirees and those about to retire who want to protect their assets. His practice focuses on helping pre-retirees and retirees avoid the most common financial mistakes. Dwight, a graduate of Widener University where he majored in Economics and Business Management, is a Registered Representative of Questar Capital Corporation and an investment advisor representative of Questar Asset Management. He has over 30 years of Insurance and Financial Services experience. Dwight's office is located in Largo, MD.



NEWS OF INTEREST

House bill would require in-state tuition rates for veterans

The House is expected to pass legislation next week that would require colleges to give veterans in-state tuition rates, regardless of their place of residence. House GOP leaders will bring up the GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act, [H.R. 357](#). The bill should easily pass the House; it was approved by the House Veterans Affairs last summer by a voice vote.

The Veterans Affairs Committee says the bill is needed because it's not fair to require veterans to pay out-of-state tuition rates just because they live out of state. "[T]he men and women who served this nation did not just defend the citizens of their home states, but the citizens of all 50 states," the committee said in a report accompanying the bill.



Chapter Chatter



The committee also said charging out-of-state veterans higher rates amounts to a requirement that these veterans subsidize the education of in-state students. "Those who have served in the military should not be required to subsidize the education of the majority who did not," it wrote. "It is absolutely inappropriate that schools balance their revenue streams on the backs of veterans and the nation's taxpayers who are providing very generous education benefit."

Regardless of whether students are veterans or not, most schools charge a much higher rate for out-of-state enrollees. The committee found that on average, this rate is about \$13,000 higher for out-of-state students. Under the current GI Bill, veterans can use their veterans benefits to pay in-state rates but have to come up with their own money if they wish to attend a school outside their home state. The legislation up next week would require schools to give veterans the in-state rate, starting in August 2014. Schools that don't comply would not be able to receive GI Bill benefits as payment for enrolling veterans.

The bill says, "the Secretary or the Secretary's designee shall disapprove a course of education provided by a public educational institution unless the institution charges tuition and fees for a veteran at up to the same rate as the institution charges for residents of the State in which the institution is located, regardless of the veteran's State of residence."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2014

February 2014

4 February - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM
15 February - Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella's, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM
Guest Speaker – Mr. Dwight L Ferguson
17 February – President's Day

March 2014

4 March - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM
15 March - Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella's, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM
Guest Speaker – Col (Ret) Frank Francois, USA, President, RMOA

April 2014

8 April - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM
19 April - Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella's, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM
Guest Speaker – Mr. J. Byron Morris, Past President of the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airman

May 2014

6 May - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM

17 May – Armed Forces Day/Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella’s, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM

26 May – Memorial Day

June 2014

3 June - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM

14 June – Flag Day

21 June - Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella’s, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM

July/August 2014

Summer recess no meetings scheduled

September 2014

1 September – Labor Day

2 September - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM

11 September - Annual Congressional Luncheon hosted by Maryland MOAA State Council

20 September - Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella’s, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM

October 2014

7 October - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM

18 October - Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella’s, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM

November 2014

4 November - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM

15 November - Monthly luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella’s, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM

27 November - Thanksgiving

December 2014

2 December - Board meeting at the Sealey Law Office, Upper Marlboro at 7:00 PM

13 December - Holiday luncheon and meeting at Mama Stella’s, Clinton, MD at 11:30 AM

25 December - Christmas



Chapter Chatter



PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPTER MEETING RESERVATION FORM

***Mama Stella's Restaurant
7918 Old Branch Avenue
Clinton Maryland 20735
(301) 868-3057***

Mailing Address

Col Steven Regner
C/o PGCC MOAA
P.O. Box 707
Clinton, Maryland 20735

Home Phone: 301-877-0978
Cell Phone: (301) 885-8369
E-mail: shreg01@aol.com
Mail RSVP – 13 February 2014

E-mail/Phone RSVP – 13 February

**Luncheon meeting Date: 15 February 2014
11:30 AM**

Member's Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Number Attending _____

Cost: **\$25.00/person**

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Signature _____

You are invited to order off of the menu.
Please order prior to our sitting down.

Thank You for your consideration

Jerry Alfred Simmons Colonel U.S. Army (Retired)

On Friday, January 17, 2014, Colonel (Ret.) Jerry A. Simmons of Cocoa, Florida passed away at the age of 82 in his home of 40 years in Ft. Washington, Maryland with his wife, children, and grandchild by his side. Col. Simmons received his Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A&M University (FAMU), where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in June 1953. His postgraduate, Master's of Business degree was earned at Central Michigan University. His military education included the U.S. Army Aviation School, the United States Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He also studied and earned certificates in Aerospace Management, University of Southern California; Systems Engineering, University of Michigan; and Executive Management while working for GE Aerospace.

Col. Simmons served with distinction in command and staff positions of increasing responsibility during his military career. He saw combat in Korea and Vietnam where he was shot down three times. He was a Master Army Aviator qualified in both Fixed and Rotary Wing aircraft and served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Nixon. In 1983, he was Deputy Commander of the Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground where he retired after a 30-year, highly decorated and illustrious career in the U.S. Army. His awards and honors include: the Department Of Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (three awards), the Air Medal (seven awards), Joint Chiefs of Staff Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), and the FAMU Distinguished Alumni Award. In 1983 he joined Lockheed Martin and later GE – Aerospace where he was a part of the management team and retired as a Program Manager in 1997.

Col. Simmons was an advocate for higher education and loved mentoring students through Project Manhood and other local youth associations. He also participated in student recruiting in support of the FAMU Presidential Scholars Program and Military ROTC Programs. Col. Simmons was an active member of Florida A&M National Alumni Association, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, **Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA)**, Tuskegee Airmen Association, 174th Assault Helicopter Company Association, NAACP, Habitat for Humanity, and many other service, social, and non-profit organizations. He always believed and stated that "life is for the living" and to "live life to its fullest."

Jerry A. Simmons, COL (Ret.) is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lula M. Simmons; his three children Marian D. Simmons Smith, Angela R. Simmons, and Jerry A. Simmons III; his favorite (and only) grandchild Tiffany N. Smith; his siblings and their spouses Oliver (Gloria) Simmons, Ruth (Harold) Collins, Frederick (Sylvia) Simmons; his wife's siblings Homer (Genette) Cox, Norma Jean Coes, Annie Mae Cox; and a host of nieces, nephews, devoted relatives and friends.