



General William Smallwood Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 554
Waldorf, MD 20604



The Smallwood Crier

Year 43 No. 6 Dec 2016

Dear Friends and Fellow Members of the General Smallwood Chapter,

We had a good luncheon on 5 November at the Waldorf VFW. Our guest speaker, MAJ Dick Martiny, USA (Ret.) gave us a fine presentation on General William Smallwood and his contributions to our successful revolution. It was also a pleasure to meet his wife, Fran.

On the other hand, November has been a very difficult month for our chapter. Two of our stalwart members, Lt. Col. Ashley Smith USAF (Ret.) and CWO4 Bill Welch, USN (Ret.) both passed away. Ashley was a charter member of our chapter and a Past President. Bill was a near-perennial winner of our cribbage tournament. I've included their short biographies at the end of this newsletter. Both men are sorely missed. I know our prayers are with their families.

Ashley's family is hosting a celebration of his life at the family home from 1:00pm to 5:00pm on Saturday, 19 November, at 3235 Woodcox Road, Indian Head, MD 20640. Bill Welch's visitation has already taken place. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery, date to be determined.

IN MEMORIAM



Ashley Smith, Lt. Col.,
USAF, (Ret.)



Bill Welch
CWO4, USN, (Ret.)

Sincerely,

Mike Rhoden
COL, USA (Ret.)
Chapter President

Chapter Notes

Chapter Holiday Party

Our next function is the Holiday Party on 3 December at the VFW. Please RSVP and send in your \$20.00 per person payment by 28 November. The menu includes turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls, salad, coffee, iced tea, and water. If you want to participate in the "Chinese gift exchange", please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10.00-\$15.00. We are also collecting toiletries and other items (CDs, puzzles, etc.) for donation to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Please bring full size toiletries, not travel size, and ensure none contain alcohol.

Status of Chapter Secretary Position

Sandie Wadsworth, CWO3, USN (Ret) has offered to serve as our Chapter Secretary. We'll present this to the Chapter for a vote at the 3 December Holiday Party.

Chapter Members Participated in the La Plata Veterans Day Parade

RADM Larry Poe, USN (Ret), Chapter President Mike Rhoden, COL, USA (Ret), and members Neil Johnson, COL, USA (Ret) and Chapter Treasurer Jim Goldsmith, CAPT, USN (Ret) rode in the La Plata Veterans Day Parade on 6 November. Thanks to La Plata Mayor and Chapter Past President Roy Hale, LT, USN (Ret) for allowing us to ride in his BMW convertible. It was a beautiful day and it was great to be a part of this American tradition.

Chapter Members Attended La Plata High School's American Freedom Day Program

Jake Mitchell, LCDR, USNR (Ret) and wife Sandie Mitchell went to La Plata High School's annual American Freedom Day Program on 10 November 2016. According to the feedback received from our attendees the program was inspiring and very enjoyable.

2016 General William Smallwood Chapter Calendar

3 December Holiday Party

2017 General William Smallwood Chapter Calendar

28 January	Luncheon at VFW followed by Board Meeting
18 March	Luncheon at VFW
6 April	Board Meeting
6 May	Luncheon at VFW
10 June	Picnic (Location to be determined)
3 August	Board Meeting
23 September	Luncheon at VFW
5 October	Board Meeting
4 November	Luncheon followed by Board Meeting
2 December	Holiday Party

2017 Dues Time is Here

Please bring or mail your \$15.00 dues check for calendar year 2017 at your earliest convenience. I'd like to have your dues by 31 December 2016 so we can finalize our roster before the end of January 2017 (this was key to the Chapter getting a \$250 award from MOAA National). Please bring your check to the December Holiday Party, or mail it to the address at the top of the newsletter.

Do You Know a Chapter Member or Spouse Who is Ill? If you do, please contact the Marge Asman, our Chaplain at 301-643-3595.

Changes to Your E-mail Address or Telephone Number? If you change your e-mail address or telephone number, please provide the new information to me (mmrhoden@aol.com).

Speaker Suggestions? If you would like to recommend a speaker or a luncheon topic, please contact Mike Rhoden at mmrhoden@aol.com or 301-396-5981.

Recycle and Support Your Chapter!!!

A reminder that Jake Mitchell will be happy to take your aluminum cans for recycling. **Please make arrangements with him by calling 301-934-8086.** All proceeds go into the Chapter Treasury to benefit the JROTC programs we support: St. Charles, McDonough, Stone, Lackey, La Plata, Westlake, and North Point high schools.

Name: Claris “Ashley” Smith

Place of Birth: Ellenton, SC (near Augusta, GA)

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)

Branch of Service: Air Force

Years of Service: 22

Campaign Eras: WWII, Korea, Vietnam

Spouse: He married the former LT Hope Quinn from Indian Head, MD, in 1954. They met while he attended Intelligence School at Lowry AFB, Denver, CO.

MOAA Membership: General Wm Smallwood Chapter charter member; former Chapter President

- **Education:** Atlantic Christian Coll., Wilson, NC (**1942**); UNC (Chapel Hill), BA/Journalism (**1947**); UMD (College Park), MA/Government and Politics (**1976**)

- **Military Service Highlights**

Enlisted in 1943; commissioned in 1944 at Spence Field, Moultrie, GA, through the Aviation Cadet Program. Delivered aircraft around the U.S. as a member of Air Transport Command's 5th Ferrying Group, Love Field, TX. After his discharge from the Army Air Corps in 1945, he continued his education and worked as a reporter. Recalled to active duty in 1951 during the Korean War; worked in Public Affairs at Bergstrom AFB, Austin, TX and at RAF Manston, near Dover, England. He returned to Texas and attended Intel School at Lowry AFB, CO. He served with the 3921st Recon Tech Squadron from 1954–57 in West Drayton, England, near London's Heathrow Airport. Flew B-47's with SAC's 310th Bomb Wing at Schilling AFB in Salina, KS. From 1961–64, he performed information collection and analysis work at HQ USAFE in Wiesbaden, Germany. Next was a 4-year tour at the Pentagon on the Air Staff in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. His final year on active duty was at Udorn Royal Thai AB with the 7th Air Force. He retired in 1969.

- **Decorations, Medals, and Badges**

AF Commendation Medal (1st OLC), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal

- **Civilian Professional Highlights**

Ashley received his Journalism degree in 1947, worked on the *Chronicle* in Augusta, GA, the *Morning Herald* in Durham, NC and *The Charlotte News* (NC), where he was state news editor until the Korean War. Retiring from the Air Force in 1969, he became the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools in Charles County, MD, for 15 years. From 1985 to 1991, he and Hope did wilderness travel, and he described their experiences in travel articles. He also wrote a political column for *The Independent*, a twice-weekly newspaper circulated in Southern Maryland.

Areas of Interest

- Ashley loved hunting and fishing growing up and continued doing it throughout the years. Several high school teachers inspired his love of writing. As a bomber pilot in the 50's, he played ping-pong while on alert in England and Alaska. After raising their four children and leaving their work in education and in the medical field, he and Hope volunteered their time and gave back to the community. They also enjoyed working around their property, entertaining friends, and traveling.

Name: William "Bill" M. Welch

Place of Birth: Canton, Ohio

Rank: Chief Warrant Officer 4, USN (Ret.)

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Years of Service: 30

Campaign Eras: Vietnam and First Gulf War

Spouse: Alice Mary Norton of Norwood, MA. They were married on July 29, 1972.

MOAA Membership: Life Member

- **Education:** George Washington University, University of Southern Calif. and San Diego Comm. College. Received a bachelor's degree from University of Maryland (1986).

- **Military Service Highlights**

After joining the Navy and going to boot camp in San Diego in 1961, he was assigned general duty at Naval Station Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif. A year later he transferred to the USS O'Bannon (DD-450) at Pearl Harbor, HI. He participated in two astronaut recoveries, Pacific nuclear testing patrols, and had a six-month deployment to the Far East. In 1964, he reenlisted for Photo "A" School in Pensacola, FL. Upon completion, he was assigned to The Navy Photo Center, Wash., DC. In 1966, he received additional training for Photo "B" and Motion Picture "C" School, after which he transferred to the USS America, CVA-66 in Norfolk, VA. He made two nine-month deployments to Vietnam over the next three years. Both times resulted in the ship making a complete circumnavigation of the earth. In 1970, he was selected to attend a special one-year course in Cinematography at the Univ. of Southern California then returned to the Navy Photo Center as a Moplc Editor putting together an 8-year Navy History (1965-73) to show returning POWs. In 1975 he was part of the Pacific Fleet Combat Camera Group, San Diego, CA, doing film editing and serving as first cameraman and crew chief. He was promoted to Chief Petty Officer in 1979, and in 1981 was commissioned to Chief Warrant Officer. In 1983 he returned to the Navy Photo Center as MoPic Dept. Military Project Officer and Division Officer for the Navy's White House Film/Video documentation crew. He retired two years later in 1991.

- **Decorations, Medals, and Badges**

Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation (2), Photo Officer, USS J.F. Kennedy (CV67) (2), Good Conduct Medal (4), Navy Expeditionary Medal (2), National Def Medal, Armed Forces Exped. Med, Vietnam Svc Med (5), Sea Service Deployment (5), Vietnam Unit Gallantry Cross, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Aircrew Wings.

- **Civilian Professional Highlights**

From 1991 on employed with the National Air Survey Center Corp., (NASCC). Presently working one to two days a week for NASCC as consultant and technician at National Archives II in College Park, MD.

Areas of Interest

Spoiling the grandkids; in addition to MOAA, member of VFW, American Legion and National Association of Naval Photography..

Date: Saturday, 3 Dec 2016

Cost: \$20.00 (please pay in advance)

Place: VFW Post 8810

2310 Old Washington Rd

Waldorf, MD 20601

Menu: Turkey; cranberry sauce; stuffing; mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes; gravy; green bean casserole; salad and dressing; water and iced tea

Dessert: Please bring some to share!

Please bring your donations for the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home!

Time: 1200, Luncheon

Please call Sandy Mitchell at 301-934-8086 to RSVP by 28 Nov 2016. Please mail your check to the following address: General Smallwood Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 554, Waldorf, MD 20604.