



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



The Smallwood Crier

Year 43 No. 2 Mar/Apr 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Fellow Members of the General Smallwood Chapter,

I hope you enjoyed our 20 February 2016 luncheon and guest speaker Larry Abell, President of the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park, and former Lieutenant, U.S. Navy. Not only is Larry a fine speaker and museum president, he is one of the newest members of our chapter. Welcome and congratulations, Larry!

Margie and I missed the luncheon but we had a valid excuse: Our beautiful granddaughter, Adelaide Yvonne Walters, was born on 11 February and we were with her in Decatur, Georgia for three weeks. "Addie", her mom and dad are all well. Pardon me if I press pictures into your hands the next time we meet.

Sincerely,

Mike Rhoden
COL, USA (Ret.)
Chapter President

Legislative Update

Günter Finkenauer and I attended the Maryland Senate committee hearing on 15 March regarding Senate Bill 660 which would exempt 100% of military retirement income if enacted into law. All of the seats for audience members in the hearing room were taken by supporters of the Bill as evident by service-related baseball caps, overseas caps from various service organizations, and active duty service members testifying in uniform. Governor Hogan was represented by Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings who characterized the bill as long overdue.

MOAA's Maryland Council of Chapters First Vice President Harvey Kaplan, COL, USA (Ret.) testified in support of the Bill as did Southern Maryland Chapter President CDR Phil Campbell, USN. CDR Campbell's testimony was especially compelling as he explained why the Maryland income tax on military retirement made it impossible for him to retire in Maryland.

An active duty Army battalion commander testified that he loved Maryland but he couldn't retire here, due to the state income tax, when over 20 other states totally exempt military retirement income. He added that a significant percentage of his soldiers retire each year and he counsels these soldiers on the realities of retirement income and taxes.

None of the committee members asked questions. The chairman said the committee would report to the Senate its recommendations in the coming days. Of course, any bill will still have to pass the House of Delegates. I'll report news via email as it comes.

Chapter Notes

Next Chapter Luncheon on 16 April 2016

Our next luncheon will be held at the Waldorf VFW on 16 April 2016. I have requested a guest speaker from the National Park Service in recognition of the Service's centennial year (1916-2016).

Supporting the Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum

Some of our chapter members volunteer at the Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum in Newburg, MD. If you are interested in volunteering at the Museum, or in donating items the Museum may be interested in having, please let me know and I'll contact the appropriate personnel at the Museum.

2016 General William Smallwood Chapter Calendar

16 April	Luncheon at VFW
12 May	Board Meeting
11 June	Cribbage Tournament (Location: Jake and Sandie Mitchell's Chesapeake Bay-side House)
4 August	Board Meeting
10 September	Luncheon at VFW
6 October	Board Meeting
5 November	Luncheon at VFW and Chapter Officer Election
17 November	Board Meeting
3 December	Holiday Party

Do You Know a Chapter Member or Spouse Who is Ill? If you know of a chapter member or spouse who is ill, please contact Marge Asman at 301-643-3595. We want to at least send a Get Well card. If you can't reach Marge, please call Mike Rhoden at 301-396-5981.

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 Polly Zimmerman and me (pollyzimmerman@gmail.com & 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, **if you make arrangements with him by calling 301-934-8086**. All proceeds go into the Chapter Treasury to benefit the JROTC programs we support at St. Charles, McDonough, Stone, Lackey, La Plata, Westlake, and North Point high schools.

Date: Saturday, 16 April 2016

Cost: \$20.00 (please pay in advance if possible)

**Place: VFW Post 8810
2310 Old Washington Rd**

Waldorf, MD 20601

**Menu: Baked Chicken, Roasted Potatoes,
Green Bean Casserole, Vegetable Medley, Salad, and
Rolls. Coffee, Iced Tea.**

**Time: 1130, Social Hour
1200, Luncheon**

Dessert: Please bring some to share!

Please call Sandy Mitchell at 301-934-8086 to RSVP by 11 April 2016.

**Please mail your check to Sandy: General Smallwood Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 554,
Waldorf, MD 20604.**