A Message from your President

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Catterton

Happy New Year to everyone!

Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me, your other elected officers, and your appointed board members. We all pledge to work hard for the Lone Star Chapter this year.

Everyone had a great time at our Christmas party at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Arlington. As is traditional, the Buzz Murphy Orchestra provided the musical entertainment. A good time was had by all.

With the Green Oaks Hotel closed, we continue to look for a permanent venue for our monthly meetings. While we are locked in for January – February – March at the Rolling Hills Country Club, all of the board members will welcome input on feasible meeting locations from the LSOC membership. CDR John Whitsell and LCDR Wes Charles (among others) have been very active in trying to get input from the membership regarding potential locations. Both CDR Whitsell and LCDR Charles have agreed to continue to coordinate selection of a permanent venue as we go forward with this important decision during the next few months.

The LSOC board meetings will continue to be on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the NAS-JRB bowling alley, which is located across the street from the BX. At the January 23rd meeting, the LSOC board members will be establishing chapter goals for 2008. We always welcome any LSOC members who would like to attend to do so. Also, please feel free to contact myself or any of the board members to pass along your thoughts and ideas for goals during this exciting year.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our January dinner on January 16 at the Rolling Hills Country Club.

Bill

IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN!!!

It is time for payment of dues by our Lone Star Officers Club membership. 2008 dues can be sent to our Post Office address. Use the form on page 7 to notify us of any changes in your current information. You can check your dues status by looking at the mailing label on this Parade issue. Above your name will be the notation PD-07, or the correct year when dues were last paid. New payments will be reflected on next month's label.
CHAPLAIN’S CORNER    Col. Kit Carson

Bob Dylan blessed my generation with the sounds of “Blowing in the Wind: and “The Times They are a-Changing.” In the late 70’s this musical genius came on hard times. He and his wife divorced, and he became enslaved to alcohol.

Dylan titled one of the songs “Gotta Serve Somebody.” It has many verses and all make the same point: everyone’s a servant of someone or something – booze, sex, things, money, food – something. What or whom do we really serve?

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keithl@goarmyreservedocs.com
www.goarmyreservedocs.com
PERSONAL AFFAIRS     By Col Forest Lucy, USMC (Ret)

Veterans Charities & Tax Planning During mid-December there was considerable national media attention on charities which have unusually high overhead costs resulting in little money going to the people in need. For those who have already given to veterans charities, the information comes a bit late for 2007, but it is excellent for planning your 2008 charitable contributions and your last-minute 2007 contributions. Charitable contributions for 2007 can still be made during early January 2008, but for exact cutoff dates and rules, you should check with your tax preparer.

In Congress, the House held a hearing on December 13th on Veterans Charities, and the president of the American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP) in Chicago gave detailed testimony. The AIP is described as a nonprofit charity watchdog and information group helping those who contribute to charities to make wise giving decisions. The national headlines grabbed onto the fact that of 23 “Veterans & Military” charities rated by AIP, ten were given a rating of “F” and only four were rated “A.” The ten Fs were awarded to American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation, American Veterans Relief Foundation, AMVETS National Service Foundation, Freedom Alliance, Help Hospitalized Veterans / Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, National Veterans Services Fund, NCOA National Defense Foundation, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Vietnow National Headquarters. The four As were awarded to Armed Services YMCA of the USA, Fisher House Foundation, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, and the National Military Family Association.

The AIP believes that, “… a charity should spend at least 60 percent of its cash budget on bonafide charitable programs (35 percent or less receives and F and 75 percent or more receive an A).”

Not widely reported was that three favorite military charities with previous ratings of A+ were downgraded because they were holding too much in reserve for operating expenses. Those downgraded were Army Emergency Relief (from A+ to F), Air Force Aid Society (from A+ to F), and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (from A+ to C).

The AIP rates only 500 charities, so it does not cover everything, but you can check all they do rate and their detailed criteria for ratings at the AIP web site, http://www.charitywatch.org. The complete testimony of the AIP president to Congress may be viewed at, http://oversight.house.gov/documents/20071213131834.pdf.

If you want to check the IRS listing of Tax Exempt Organizations, go to http://www.irs.gov/charities and click on “search for Charities.” You can also see what charities have deductibility limitations. Normally limitations are listed as 50, 30, or 20 percent of adjusted gross income.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Lanette and Gene Posey attended the graduation of their granddaughter, Sara Posey, from Texas Tech University in Lubbock on December 15th. Sara earned a bachelors degree in Mass Communications and Public Relations, graduating Cum Laude.

An update on your editor, Roger Herman. Roger will remain in Trail Lake Nursing and Rehab Center until late in January. His leg muscle is improving but will require more rehabilitation and, since the therapy at the rehab center is only provided on an in-patient basis, he has decided to remain there a little longer to ensure recovery. The care and therapy has been wonderful but he (and Monica) will be glad to be home later in the month. Roger and Monica celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 29th.

REMINDER: BEGINNING IN JANUARY, MAKE YOUR DINNER RESERVATIONS BY CALLING MO SIMMONS AT 817-560-0632. YOU MAY ALSO MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS TO THE LSOC POST OFFICE BOX.
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan. 16: Chapter Meeting
Rolling Hills Country Club. 6:00 p.m.
social hour, 7:00 p.m. dinner meeting

Jan. 23: Board Meeting
NAS Bowling Center Sports Bar.
12:00 p.m.

Feb. 20: Chapter Meeting
Rolling Hills Country Club. 6:00 p.m.
social hour, 7:00 p.m. dinner meeting.

Feb. 27: Board Meeting
NAS Bowling Center Sports Bar.
12:00 p.m.

Mar. 19: Chapter Meeting
Rolling Hills Country Club. 6:00 p.m.
social hour, 7:00 p.m. dinner meeting

ROBERT L. DONAHUE
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Sunday School – 9:20 A. M.
LONE STAR CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

President: Lt. Col. Bill Catterton, 817-496-5200  
1st VP: LTC Grady Fairbairn, 817-498-7399  
2nd VP: LCDR Wes Charles, 817-637-7392  
Mrs. Janis (Mo) Simmons, 817-560-0632  
Secretary: Position Open  
Treasurer: Lt. Col. Jim Boyd, 817-249-0284  
Past Pres CDR John Whitsell, 817-788-0643

**APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Chaplain: Col. "Kit" Carson, 817-732-3533  
Educ/Schol: Vickie Keehr, 817-275-6912  
Personal Affairs: Col. Forest Lucy, 972-416-2615  
Legis. Affairs: Col. Jim Costin, 817-427-5393  
Advertising: Col. Bob Cooper, 817-292-4886  
Publicity: Position Open  
Photographer: Capt. Jim Lucas, 817-277-0578  
Parade Editors: Lt. Col. Roger & Monica Herman  
817-292-4436

DECEMBER DINNER DANCE

John Whitsell, 2007 President of the LSOC, is shown below presenting Wes Charles, 2006 President, with the banner for the MOAA 5-Star Award for excellence for the year 2006.

The December dinner dance was held at Rolling Hills Country Club, complete with the band of Buzz Murphy. New officers for 2008 were installed and are shown above. From left to right: Bill Catterton, President; Grady Fairbairn, Ist Vice-President; Wes Charles and Mo Simmons, 2nd Vice-Presidents; Jim Boyd, Secretary.
JANUARY 2008 MEETING AND RESERVATION INFORMATION

Member’s Name ____________________________________________

Make ______ reservations for member, spouse or guest @ $20. each

My check is enclosed for $________  Signed _____________________

--------------------------PLEASE CUT HERE---------------------------

Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at Rolling Hills Country Club

Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. – Dinner: 7:00 p.m. Dress: Coat and Tie

Program: CAPT Ian C. McIntyre, USN, Commander, NASJRB-Fort Worth

Menu: Chicken Dijon, Dessert – Cheese Cake

Reservations: Deadline for placing or canceling reservations will be end of day, Sunday, January 13. We cannot accept last minute cancellations. All meals ordered must be paid for.

By mail: send above reservation form with check to Club P. O. Box to arrive no later than deadline. If mailing, please allow sufficient time for slow delivery. By phone: Mrs. Mo Simmons, 817-560-0632

LONE STAR OFFICERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP/DUES

Name:__________________________________ Rank: ___________ Service:____________ Nat’l MOAA #____________ Life Member Y N

Active Duty____ Retired:_____ Former Officer:_____ Widow (er):_____ Spouse’s name: ____________ Nickname(s):___________________

Mailing Address: Street:__________________________________________ City_____________________ State______ ZIP_____________

Telephone: _______________________ E-Mail_____________________ Name of LSOC member recruiting you ______________________

Your birth date (month and day) _________________ Spouse’s birth date: _____________ Anniversary date:______________

Please mail this form with a check for Dues $20.00 (widows: $8.00) $__________________

Voluntary contribution to Scholarship Fund ______________________

Total enclosed $__________________

Make check payable to: Treasurer
Lone Star Officers Club Inc.
P. O. Box 1642, Fort Worth, Texas 76101-1642
See page 7 for January meeting and reservation information

* A Pilot Soars

The sun has set, I’m taking the active.
Brakes set, on the end of the runway.
Final check: controls, instruments fuel, flaps, trim.
Afterburners in—what a kick.
Lift off, gear up, flaps up, point ‘er up.
Climbing, climbing, climbing.
Level off at 35 thousand, headed west.

The sun resettles below the horizon.
How quiet it is here, no chatter.
Darkness comes up behind me, like a cover, moving from tail to nose.
The black cover keeps moving forward.
Then it hits the horizon. No more blue sky.
Now it is black dark all around my bird.
It is quiet except for the hum of my jet engines.
My God, how close I am to You.

*This poem was written by Lt. Col. Tony Weissgarber, USAF, Ret., who flew the RF-101 over Hanoi during the Vietnam War. His decorations include the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters. It is presented with his permission to the members of the Lone Star Officers Club. Lt. Col. Weissgarber is an old friend of Wally Keehr. They were in pilot training together at Connally Air Force Base over 50 years ago.