

# SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

February 2011

## President's Message CAPT Kathy Bruyere, USN (Ret)

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope 2011 will be filled with good health, happy times and wonderful memories.

This is my first message to the membership, and I want to say I am delighted to be the "Team Leader" of the Chapter. I really do consider our Chapter a Team- and that includes not only the 204 regular members, but also our 21 Auxiliary members and spouses. This is a volunteer organization, and I would like to focus on volunteers in this issue. More on that in a minute.

I don't know all of you yet, but I will work on that. Just a few words about me since you may not know a lot about me, either. I started out in life as a proud "Army Brat", and after college started a 28 year career as a Navy Line Officer, with a variety of interesting and challenging jobs on each Coast, the majority of my time spent in personnel policy positions. For twelve years I was also a Navy wife, married to another career officer. In 1988 I married retired Navy Captain Tom Bruyere (Naval Academy Class of 1956, and Vietnam era Navy Fighter Pilot), whom I first met in 1978. I retired in 1994, the year Tom was diagnosed with Parkinson's. I was Tom's

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**Rudy Shappee** served on active duty with the Navy for 20 years. His career spanned the Cold War years of 1957 to 1976. During his career, he served aboard three aircraft carriers: USS Bennington (CVS-20); USS Independence (CV-62); and USS Bennington (CVA-64). After retirement, he enjoyed a 20-year career in public education at elementary, secondary and university levels. Upon the arrival of the USS Midway (CV-41) in San Diego Harbor, he left his teaching career to become a volunteer aboard the new naval aircraft carrier museum. He has assisted in the restoration of the ship, developed the basic philosophy for the educational program aboard, trained and managed the ship's outstanding Docents, and is now serving as Assistant Exhibits Manager for the museum. He will discuss his new book "*Beef Stew for 2500: Feeding Our Navy from the Revolutionary War to the Present.*" Expect him to provide a lively explanation of how the U.S. Navy feeds the crews of its busy ships at sea from the Revolutionary War to the present, showing how food was prepared aboard and abroad during periods of conflict in our nation's history.

**See Page 7 for more information on Chapter dinner Monday, 21 February**

# Legislative Update

**Pentagon Defends Proposed Cuts** Pentagon leaders provided only a glimmer of clarity on the proposed \$178 billion in cuts and efficiencies over the next five years at a Wednesday hearing before the House Armed Services Committee. The DoD proposal came under immediate fire that the cuts may be too deep. Chairman Howard McKeon (R-CA) opened the hearing stating, "I will not support any measures that stress our forces and jeopardize the lives of our men and women in uniform."

Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn and the Service vice chiefs of staff asserted the cuts would not undermine war-fighting capabilities. Lynn said the proposed efficiencies and cuts will allow the Services to reinvest \$100 billion into other military programs while the remaining \$78 billion is an actual reduction in the overall defense budget. The latter cut caught McKeon and other committee members off-guard.

The proposed five-year defense budget starts with a base 2012 budget of \$533 billion and modest growth over the next two years. The increase (over inflation) for 2013 and 2014 is projected to be 1 percent and .5 percent respectively, while 2015 and 2016 are expected to be flat based on planned reductions in the force.

Those cuts, which include an Army troop reduction of 27,000 troops and another 15-20,000 for the Marine Corps, are projected to come after the expected drawdown in Afghanistan.

Referencing the "enormous growth in our medical costs," Lynn stated, "...it is time to lift the 15-year freeze on TRICARE enrollment fees for working-age retirees." He said the Pentagon also will propose adjusting pharmacy co-pays and phasing out subsidies to a small number of non-military hospitals.

Specific details on proposed copays and other fees were not provided. Such details aren't expected until February 14, when the President will formally submit the 2012 budget to Congress.

**President Talks Military Families** On Monday,

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) was invited to attend a White House event at which President Obama, the First Lady and Dr. Jill Biden revealed a long-awaited report, "Strengthening our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment." The report lays out the details of a government-wide approach to supporting and strengthening military families. It was first announced by Mrs. Obama in May of last year.

The new report identified four key areas that will be the focus of the effort:

- Enhancing military families' well-being and psychological health
- Developing military spouse career and education opportunities
- Increasing child care availability and quality of child care
- Improving education and development of military children

Government agencies that will partner in this "unprecedented commitment" will include the Departments of Education, Labor, Agriculture, Treasury, and Health and Human Services. Mr. Robert Gordon III, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community & Family Policy, emphasized the effort will require a "whole-nation approach," as DoD and the VA can't accomplish it alone.

Gordon said DoD has 200,000 military children in the child care system, but still faces a shortage of 37,000 child care spaces. Without access to quality childcare, military spouses have difficulties pursuing education and career goals, which have negative ripple effects for the whole family, especially in an environment of multiple deployments and PCS moves.

The President said he had asked troops during his December trip to Afghanistan what he could do to better support troops there. He was told, "Sir, take care of our families. If we know our families are all right back home, then we can do our jobs." He closed by calling on 100% of Americans to support this effort to demonstrate the nation's gratitude to troops and their families.

## Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Awarded Five Star Level of Excellence

CAPT Kathy Bruyere, USN (Ret), receives the chapter's Five Star Level of Excellence Streamer from MOAA's Chairman of the Board Gen Butch Neal, USMC (Ret) at the MOAA Annual Meeting in Arlington, VA on November 15, 2010. The five star designation means that our chapter has been judged to be one of the very best chapters in the country.



## Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Board 2011



*From left: CAPT John Donahue USN (Ret), Col Jim Strickland, USAF (Ret), Col Fred Allega, USMC (Ret), BG Don Mahue, ARNG (Ret), CAPT Kathy Bruyere, USN (Ret), Col Ken Jordan, USMC (Ret) (Installing Official)*

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### Military ID Cards at 65

Should you get a new military ID card at age 65 or not? MOAA recommends yes. Technically, it's not required but it may save you some grief down the line. ID cards for retired military members have an "indefinite" expiration date on the front of the card. On the back of the card is an expiration date for medical benefits that expires the month prior to you turning age 65. While your entitlement and access to medical benefits do not end after the expiration date, it could cause problems if you don't update your card.

MOAA recently received an email from a member who told us of his trip to the base pharmacy. He still used his original retired ID card with an expired medical date on the back. His card was confiscated by the pharmacy. Turns out, the base hospital implemented a local policy to confiscate cards in an effort to get cards updated for those over 65 years old.

In this fast paced, ever changing world, military ID cards have undergone several updates over the years, photos get old, and some service providers won't understand the date on the back doesn't render the card expired. People aren't ID card experts. An expired date means one thing to most; game over. Save yourself the potential grief and get a new card.

*Continued from page 1*

Caregiver for the next 15 years, when we lived in Baltimore for ten years, and moved to Chula Vista in 2005. I served on the National MOAA Board (with our Past President Bob Butcher) from 1998- 2004 and several other volunteer positions in Baltimore, including the Board of the Navy League Chapter there. Once we moved here, I was elected to the Board of the Parkinson's Association of San Diego, and am currently the President of the Board of Directors. I am also a proud step-mother to Tom's three sons, and "Grandma Kathy" to nine lively grandchildren, three of whom live with their parents in Coronado. Tom died in January 2009 from complications of Parkinson's and is one of the first heroes to be buried at the brand new Miramar National Cemetery. So, I have had many titles in my life so far, as I know all of you have had. I really enjoy hearing about all of your life stories, and look forward to them as time goes on.

When my friend Bob Butcher called me shortly after Tom and I had arrived in Chula Vista, he told me there was no question which of the local MOAA Chapters I should join, and promptly asked me to join the Board of this one- as you all know, he doesn't waste time! I have enjoyed my time on the Board, the various programs and getting to know many of you. Last year Bob asked me to take over as President in 2011, which I was at first reluctant to do, since I had just become the President of the Parkinson's Association Board, with major responsibilities each month. Because I was impressed with the way the MOAA Board and the members worked together, I agreed to continue as President. This brings us up to date.

I am confident that my initial impressions of everybody working together will turn out to be true. I am aware of the hard work that your Board does to keep all the various parts of the organization humming along, and I have become very aware of the major volunteer efforts of Colonel Jim Strickland, USAF (Ret), who has served for the past ten years as the Secretary, the Newsletter Editor, and the single-handed Coordinator for all our dinner meetings. When there was a need to fill a position due to the incumbent Board member leaving the area, Jim just stepped forward and voluntarily kept it going. We were delighted that, after ten years of selfless dedication, Jim and his wife Sandy would finally be able to enjoy some well-deserved travel, with no major duties on the Board. Well, we all know life sometimes gets in the way of our plans, and over the last month both volunteers for the Secretary and the Newsletter Editor positions had to withdraw for personal reasons. So- we are back to looking for volunteers to fill those positions. During this past month your Board has taken a hard look at the existing vacant positions and done some rearranging of duties. A new Dinner Program Committee has been formed with several volunteers, so the Secretary no longer has those duties every other month.

As I said in the beginning, this is a volunteer organization, and it has to depend on volunteers to keep it going. We really need for some of you to step up and join the current Board in the Secretary and Newsletter Editor positions. These can be filled by regular members, Auxiliary members, husband/wife teams, spouses, almost any combination. If you want to put the Newsletter together, we will purchase the computer software for you that will make that position fun and easy! Besides, you'll be working with a fun group of folks, and will be an important part of keeping the Chapter going. One of the local MOAA Chapters was on the brink of folding recently, due to nobody volunteering to help run it...we certainly don't want that to happen to our Chapter...but it will take volunteers to keep all the functions running smoothly.

So- please join me in giving a very big THANKS to Jim Strickland- he deserves a big "break " from his ten years of service, and we intend to give him one.

I ask each of you to consider donating a small amount of your time to helping run your Chapter....you will not be asked to sign on for ten years- the rest of 2011 is all we're asking for now- but we do need your help. Please call me at (619) 409-9505 with any questions about the positions (or call Jim directly at (619) 435-6608).

Thanks to you all and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the February 21st dinner meeting!

Kathy Bruyere

## **Letters to the Troops 2010**

The Silver Strand Chapter MOAA sponsored the “Letters to the Troops” project for the eleventh year in a row. Coronado schools participated this year and wrote over 700 letters that were sent to deployed Sailors and Marines from the local area. Young students from the Early Childhood Development Center also created over 40 pictures for the troops. We have seen this program expand year after year as students from kindergarten to high school expressed their support and thanks to deployed uniformed service men and women. This year’s letters were particularly difficult to judge due to the quality of each one of them. As usual, Board members who read and rated the letters were impressed with the ability of students at each level to express their appreciation and concern for military members who are in harm’s way. The Board selected first and second place winners from each school and awarded them \$25 book gift certificates for 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$20 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Reading and judging these letters was a rewarding experience for those who participated. All letters submitted were immediately delivered to ComNavAirPac where they were flown to deployed sailors and Marines in time for Christmas. Winners from each school are:

**Christ Church Day School: First Place, Brooke; Second Place, Charlotte**

**Silver Strand Elementary School: First Place, Dara; Second Place, Joan**

**Coronado Middle School: First Place, Madeleine; Second Place, Brooke**

**Sacred Heart Parish School: First Place, Paulina; Second Place, Andrea**

**Village Elementary: First Place, Archer; Second Place, Isabel**

**Coronado High School: First Place, Claire; Second Place, Kingston**

The winner’s letters were published in the Coronado Eagle Journal on January 11, 2011

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### **Web Sites You Can Use**

Military Officers Association	<a href="http://www.moaa.org/">http://www.moaa.org/</a>
Defense Accounting and Finance Service	<a href="http://www.dfas.mil/">http://www.dfas.mil/</a>
United States Senate	<a href="http://www.senate.gov/">http://www.senate.gov/</a>
United States House of Representatives	<a href="http://www.house.gov/">http://www.house.gov/</a>
California State Legislature	<a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov/">http://www.legislature.ca.gov/</a>
City of Coronado	<a href="http://coronado.ca.us/">http://coronado.ca.us/</a>
Navy Medical Center San Diego	<a href="http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcspd/">http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcspd/</a>
Express Scripts, TRICARE Pharmacy	<a href="http://www.express-scripts.com/">http://www.express-scripts.com/</a>
TRICARE Online Options Wizard	<a href="http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/">http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/</a>
Medline Plus, U.S. National Library of Medicine	<a href="http://medlineplus.gov/">http://medlineplus.gov/</a>
US Department of Veterans Affairs	<a href="http://www.va.gov">http://www.va.gov</a>
California Department of Veterans Affairs	<a href="http://www.cdva.ca.gov">www.cdva.ca.gov</a>
Online Resources for Veterans	<a href="http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov">www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov</a>
The United Veterans Council of San Diego	<a href="http://www.sduvc.org">www.sduvc.org</a>

## Centennial of Naval Aviation Activities

On February 17, 1911, inventor and aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss taxied his seaplane to the battleship USS PENNSYLVANIA anchored in San Diego Bay. A boat hoisted the "hydroaeroplane" aboard the ship. Later, it was lowered to the water and Curtiss returned to North Island. This historic event, more than any other, prompted the Secretary of the Navy's decision to purchase the Navy's first aircraft.

In tribute to this and the 100 years of progress and achievement in Naval Aviation, hundreds of historic and current Navy aircraft will take to the skies **February 12, 2011**. Naval Air Station North Island - the official "Birthplace of Naval Aviation" - will provide prime viewing for this once-in-a-lifetime aerial review.

On February 12th the Air Station hosts a spectacular Open House event welcoming military and civilians aboard. Guests will stroll the runways to view historic static aircraft displays, enjoy the Aerial Review viewing, and take tours of the USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier. You can get more information at: [www.mwrtoday.com](http://www.mwrtoday.com) and [www.navalaviation100.org](http://www.navalaviation100.org)

The USS Midway Museum is promoting reserved seats on February 12 to see the "100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade of Flight" from the Midway flight deck saying they will be almost under the flight path of the largest flyover since the end of World War II. Live entertainment will start at noon and the Navy's Parade of Flight beginning at 1:00pm. The Navy expects they will have more than 100 aircraft participating.

The Coronado Historical Association will participate in the Centennial of Naval Aviation with the unveiling of a themed museum exhibit, "Wings of Gold: Coronado and Naval Aviation" opening on February 4. The Association is also sponsoring a "Home Front" project that will identify homes in Coronado where Naval Aviators once lived, or currently live, with a "Home of a Naval Aviator" sign including a number referencing a brochure with a short bio of the aviator. You can find more information on this exhibit at: <http://www.coronadohistory.org/>

The Coronado Library will be dedicating its exhibit space to the topic of Naval Aviation throughout 2011 with a series of displays tracing the history of Navy flight from its humble beginnings to today. Historic photographs, pilots' logbooks, uniforms, flight gear and other memorabilia will be on display at the library.

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### **Silver Strand Chapter 2011 Dues Were Due January 2011** **Chapter dues are separate from National MOAA dues**

Your Board has continued the five year dues program whereby a member can pay four years dues at one time and get credit for five years dues. In other words a \$40 payment for regular members and a \$20 payment for auxiliary members will result in extending their membership through 2015. We recommend you consider this offer.

You can use the dinner reservation form on page 7 of this newsletter to pay 2011 dues, or click on link below:  
<http://cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/documents/YOUR2011DUESAREDue.pdf>

There are 17 members delinquent on 2010 dues and 2011 dues, and 38 members delinquent on 2011 dues. Those members delinquent on dues who have provided the Chapter an e-mail address have been reminded via e-mail to pay their dues. Those receiving a paper newsletter can check the address label for dues status.

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***[Help Needed](#) – Your Chapter needs volunteers to fill the vacant Secretary and Newsletter positions on the Board of Directors. If you would like information on these two positions please call Kathy Bruyere, 409-9505 or Jim Strickland, 435-6608.***

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**MOAA Silver Strand Chapter: [www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org](http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org)**

# Joint Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Dinner Meeting

Date: Monday, February 21, 2011

**CWO2 Rudy Shappee, USN (Ret) Assistant Exhibits Manager of the USS Midway Museum**

Where: Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way

When: 1800: Social Time

1845: Dinner

1930: Program

*Prime Rib w/ Creamy Horseradish Au Jus & Twice Baked Potatoes, or  
Grilled Salmon w/ Creamy Lemon Dill Sauce & Wild Rice, or  
Vegetarian Plate - Portobello Mushroom w/ Chardonnay Sauce  
Pear & Cranberry Spring Salad Mix, grilled vegetables, desert, rolls, coffee, tea; \$30 per person*

Use the coupon below for:

- February 21 Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2011 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC & Naval Sea Cadets
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

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## Chapter Meeting Monday, February 21, 2011

Mail to: Silver Strand Chapter MOAA  
P.O. Box 180043  
Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must reach our PO Box by **Noon, Friday, 18 February (Firm)**

Indicate your choice (s) of entrée \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending dinner \_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**2011 Dues (\$10 for members) (\$5 for Auxiliary)** \$\_\_\_\_\_  
**(\$40 for 5 years) (\$20for 5 years)**

Donation to NJROTC (Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$\_\_\_\_\_

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$\_\_\_\_\_



## **Silver Strand Chapter Board of Directors**

President	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret)	409-9505
First Vice	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret)	894-4765
Second Vice	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-6689
Secretary		
Treasurer	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN (Ret)	424-6365
Air Force Rep.	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Army Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG (Ret)	435-7400
Marine Rep.	Fred Allega, Col, USMC (Ret)	429-4282
Navy Rep.	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret)	894-4765
Legislative Chair	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
Newsletter Editor		
Personal Affairs	Tom Johnson, CAPT, USN (Ret)	435-3408
Chaplain	Henry Peterson, LtCol, USAR (Ret)	760-729-6025
TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-6689
Auxiliary Liaison	Kathleen Prout, Auxiliary	435-6623
Past President	Bob Butcher, MajGen, USMC, (Ret)	298-7888

## **Dates to Remember**

2011

### Chapter Meetings

**February 21**

**April 18\***

**June 20\***

**August 15\***

**October 20\***

**December 6**

*\*Joint meetings*

### Board Meetings

**March 15**

**May 17**

**July 19**

**September 20**

**November 15**

### **SOUNDINGS**

Silver Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

P. O. Box 180043

Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Return Service Requested

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**