

Be sure to tell them what chapter you belong to so your chapter receives credit. Finally, remember chapters receive \$20 for each new paid member. Be sure to take advantage of these great incentives as we enter the homestretch.

News You Can Use from MOAA

From: MOAA's Legislative Update

The House Armed Services Committee is preparing an analysis on the impacts of deep defense cuts to submit to the so-called "Super Committee" tasked with reducing the national debt by more than a trillion dollars over the next 10 years.

Committee Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon fears any super committee proposals for more defense cuts would lead to a "hollowing out" of the military. The defense department is already on the hook for \$350 billion in cuts over the next 10 years as part of the recent debt ceiling legislation. The Super Committee, by law must come up with another \$1.2 trillion in combined cuts or revenue increases by Thanksgiving.

If they fail in that effort, and if Congress fails to pass an alternative package to save an equal amount by the end of the year, the new deficit reduction law imposes an automatic trigger mechanism (sequestration) that will cut at least an additional \$500 billion from the defense budget over the next ten years.

A House Armed Services Committee report asserts these cuts would degrade readiness and require force reductions of thousands of military personnel. MOAA agrees

with the House Armed Service Committee.



Don McArthur plays Taps at the 9/11 event

Smiling Faces in the Crowd



Jacque Clark and fellow Aussie Lt. Kat Higdon



Newlyweds Carolyn Abel and David Smith

Our Warrior is:

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and a 155mm howitzer.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional. He can march until he is told to stop, or stop until he is told to march. He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient. He has two sets

of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low. He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job. He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay, and still find ironic humor in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away ' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful. Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy.

He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding. Remember him always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

Our next meeting is Thursday October 13, 6:00 PM, Valdosta – Lowndes
Conference Center on Norman Drive

Mike Randall, founder of “Hopes and Dreams” will present a special program of great interest to our membership. “Hopes and Dreams” provides camping, horseback riding and other outdoor activities for our warriors suffering from physical wounds and those invisible wounds of war, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Please welcome our guests and ask them to join you for dinner.
Dinner is served at 6:30 PM

Please make your reservations through chapter Secretary Buddy Johnson 229-561-0690 or email buddy1612@bellsouth.net.

We are required to provide an accurate meal count two work days prior to the event. Cost is \$20 per person.

Sorry, we must bill no-shows and late cancellations

One of our chapter support projects is **That Others May Live (TMOL)** Foundation. The foundation provides scholarships, family counseling and aid to surviving children of USAF Rescue Heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice. TMOL is hosting a golf tournament on Saturday, October 22 at Kinderlou Forrest Golf Club. Entry fee is \$75/person or \$300 for a 4 man team and includes green fees, cart, prime rib lunch, range balls and prizes. Please contact Glenn Walden for sign-up at 244-5146(home), 630-3859(cell).

SGAMOAA
PO Box 5941
Valdosta, GA 31603