

The Leaf

VOLUME XI ISSUE II

PROUD MEMORIES

Spring 2009

• **Events**

- * **NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull in Adelphi**
- * **WOLAA Night @ Strathmore, Thur, 7 May 2009 @ 2000**
- * **WOLAA Annu Luncheon at Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, Fri, 15May 2009@1115.**
- * **Holiday Luncheon Dec, 2008. Details TBD**

* ***11 September 2001.....GOD BLESS AMERICA!***

WOLAA Web Site: www.wolaa.org

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This Issue:
News from WOLAA p2
Ramblings p3
Features p3
Retirement News p3
Alumni Updates p4
Deceased Alumni p5
Supplements p SI

News from WOLAA.

***WOLAA Annual Luncheon.** Our annual WOLAA luncheon will be held on Friday, 15 May 2009 beginning at 1115 with our social hour. It will again be held at the Golden Bull Restaurant in Gaithersburg, MD. You will receive your flyer with all the details by about 10 April 2009. Mark your calendars now.

Cost will remain at \$22 a person. Entrée choices will be the popular prime ribs, crab cakes, or chicken dijon. Our WOLAA Store will be open at 1115 featuring the WOLAA T-shirts.

Several NOL/NSWC groups, branches, or teams have arranged to be seated together so Proud Memories of their work can be shared and enjoyed. Plan now; see details on flyer.

As usual a brief business meeting will be held, including the election for WOLAA Directors.

***WOLAA Night at Strathmore.** Ann Eskin called to note that on 7 May 2009 at 2000 at Strathmore that the BSO Super Pops conducted by Jack Early will perform a concert titled, "Leading Men of Broadway." Featured will be music by Webber, Sondheim, and Rodger and Hammerstein. This sounds like a concert WOLAA members would enjoy. If you are interested and desire to attend, please call John Tino at (301) 439-3140 or email at mrspat218@aol.com asap and by 10 April 2009. Sorry for short notice but I have checked on tickets and the Grand Tier where we normally sit is almost sold out and the higher Upper Tier has only ~4 rows of seats left. The tickets will be \$43. If we have 15 or more, we may be able to get a group rate. Plan would be to meet at ~1800 to have dinner together at restaurant in Strathmore. Hope you will want to join us.

News from WOLAA (Continued)

***Florida WOLAA Reunion.** Another great Florida WOLAA Reunion. Twenty-one alumni attended the reunion on 13 March 2009. Ken and Jurel Caudle hosted the event at the dining room of the club house in their development. The food was very good and the visiting was superb. WOLAA extends a special thanks to Ken and Jurel for arranging and hosting the reunion. The group voted to meet at Dade City, FL again in 2010 on about the same time in March.

Marty Walchak took pictures and I will attempt to place them on Snapfish. To view these and other pictures of WOLAA events, log on to www.snapfish.com; use MTINO571@aol.com as ID; and WOLAA as the password.

***Historical Preservation.**

-New York Times Article. The New York Times did an excellent news piece on FDA. It appeared in the Business Section of the paper on Wednesday, 25 February 2009. The title was, "FDA Fills a Vacuum, in a Big Way." It was written by Eugene L Meyer. The article describes the \$1.15 Billion consolidation at the NOL/NSWC site. It discusses the history of the property and the role of NOL/NSWC. Worth looking up on their web site and reading.

-Andirons. On 25 February 2009 at the monthly meeting of LABQUEST at FDA's newly restored Building 1, Jim Proctor presented the restored andirons from the fireplace in the foyer of the WOL auditorium to FDA. The andirons (Metal stands to place logs on.) will complete the fireplace that was rebuilt in the FDA Commissioner's office. Jim made remarks about the history of NOL/NSWC; and the role and significance of the fireplaces to WOL alumni. Wayne Hopkins also attended the ceremony.

This was the first time a community meeting was held in the restored Building 1. The PAO and Security offices off the main lobby have both been restored as conference rooms. The American flag that was flown the day WOL closed and again the day the Building 1 was dedicated was displayed for the occasion.

-Building 1 Tours. Several alumni desired to attend the tour of Building 1 in November but were not able to attend. They have inquired if another tour was planned. The answer is probably not as FDA employees have now occupied the building. However, when we dedicate the Proud Memory Garden in the Spring of 2010, it is hoped that alumni could visit the restored lobby area as they make their way to the Garden. Also, you are able to drive into the Federal Research Center from New Hampshire Avenue and view Building 1, circle and flagpole. You can also drive all around the FDA complex and exit to New Hampshire from what we use to call the North Gate. Such a driving tour is worthwhile.

-Bennett and Stinson Plaques. WOLAA recently provided GSA the text for the plaque which will summarize Dr Bennett's career. George Hamlin prepared this text; and WOLAA thanks George for this excellent effort. The plaque is planned to be placed next to the plaque of Dr. Bennett which was formerly displayed in the foyer of WOL auditorium and will now be placed next to a restored WOL fireplace in the FDA Conference Center Lobby. The Nate Stinson plaque which was also formerly displayed in the WOL auditorium foyer was provided to GSA. It will also be displayed in the foyer of the FDA Conference Center. Nate was an engineer in U Department, and later, directed the EEO program for NAVMAT. The Navy has named an award after Nate which is presented annually. WOLAA Board is displaying this plaque to symbolize the importance of people to the Navy.

Ramblings of a Senior

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Recently, I came across an amazing program. It is called Angel Food Ministries. It was begun by Pastor Joe Wingo; I believe he began this ministry in Georgia. It is rapidly spreading up the East Coast and into the Mid-west. It provides food at a discount price to anyone!!!!. The local churches of all faiths are the distributors of this food in a community. We heard about it from our daughter in Winchester, VA. Here is how it works. The food is distributed once a month. An order form is provided which can be mailed or delivered to the church. You are given a date and time to pick-up your food; typically, a Saturday morning. At the Church in Winchester, which has a super process, you drive into the parking lot, present your order form, and volunteers load your food in your car.

The basic box costs \$30, and feeds 4 for a week. It typically contains: steak, chicken, beef patties, cheese, frozen mixed vegies, green beans, carrots, french fries, dozen eggs, rice, pan cake mix, and a dessert (frozen blue berry pie last month). They also have a Seniors convenience meals for \$28; this is 10 frozen dinners—which are pretty good and certainly healthy. Next is a fresh fruit and vegetable box for \$22. It contains potatoes, cabbage, whole peeled carrots, onions, peppers, lemons, pears, apples, etc. Finally, they have 4 specials: steaks, chicken, and recently seafood to select from at about \$21. Next month, they feature a box of valencia oranges for just \$14. It appears the food is about 1/2 the price in a grocery store, and the quality is just as good.

You can go on line at www.AngelFoodMinistries.com to gain all the detail and see if there is an outlet near you. You can also call 1 877 366 3646. Pat and I recommend you take advantage of this ministry. We might add that this could be a project you suggest for your own church.

I was a volunteer at the church in Winchester. We began at 0800 by assembly boxes to place the food; we then helped unload the tractor trailer that delivered the food. Next came a human assembly line to load the various food in the box—I was the frozen green bean guy and tossed a package of green beans in each box as the boxes flowed past my station—all 600 boxes; boy do your hands get cold. The final step is the loading of the boxes into the cars. What a wonderful volunteering experience. This church had over 60 volunteers of all ages.

Features

*Retirement News.

-Thrift Savings Plan. Because of the decrease in the value of 401's, etc, Congress (I believe Senator Cardin from Maryland) had legislation passed so people who were 70 1/2 years old didn't have to take out their annual required withdrawal this year. Most of you in this category have probably been notified by your plan or bank. However the Thrift Savings Plan was not included in this provision. The NARFE magazine carried an article indicating the Thrift Savings Plan on their own is offering it members the same provisions as the law carried for 401's. I received information from them on this. If you haven't, you should contact the TSP folks.

-FERS Sick Leave Bill. When I retired, my accrued sick leave days were added to my years of service, which was an incentive to save sick leave if you could. When the FERS program was set up, this feature was omitted. Recently as FERS folks came close to retirement, they began to use up all their sick leave. The phrase "FERS-flu" has been coined. OPM estimates that \$68 million is lost each year in productivity due to the "FERS-flu." Recently, a bill has been introduced to correct this sick leave issue for FERS employees. It is bill HR 958. I assume this one has a good chance to pass. If you are in FERS and are close to retirement, keep your eye on this bill. The LEAF will update you as we have information.

*Retirement News (Continued)

-Stimulus Bill Tax Credit. OK, this one is a tad confusing to me. So, I will tell you this is a heads-up; and you will want to do research on this yourself. Apparently, one of the Stimulus packages carried a payment of \$250 to folks on social security, veterans, etc. I assume the “check is in the mail” soon. However, people on CSRS retirement got no payment. A change was made for us—not to get a payment this year; but a tax credit of \$250 for tax year 2009. I assume that means when you file your taxes for 2009 that you will pay \$250 less tax in 2009. Good Grief. If anyone has a better understanding of this, please email or write the LEAF.

*Alumni News.

-NASA Langley Wind Tunnel. George Hamlin sent the LEAF and article concerning the Langley large wind tunnel. It was opened 77 years ago testing wooden bi-planes, almost all WW II American fighters, etc. Recently, Old Dominion University has been using the building for an aerospace lab. The building needs expensive repairs, and it is separated on the Langley AF Base from the rest of NASA Langley; so the decision has been made to close the facility and tear down the building. We thought those from the wind tunnel community would have an interest in this development.

-Yvonne Leader. I had a nice email from Yvonne. She worked in U Department and then Communications Group with Debbie Grooms. She went to Carderock in 1995 and left there in 2002. She now lives in Bowie with her husband Barry Gartrell and eleven year old daughter, Joey. Her son is twenty and serving in the Navy. He graduated sixth in his class in “nuke” school, and is now serving on the USS Helena attack submarine. She hopes to join WOL alumni at one of our luncheons.

-Ken Baker. Ken has recently moved to the assisted living facility at Riderwood. Several alumni visited Ken recently on his birthday. His son, Jamie, noted Ken enjoys visitors.

-Jim Waldron. Jim Waldron recently retired from Indian Head after 41 years of service. John Kelley noted that Jim worked for years at WOL as technician with Dr. Alex Rozner. He continued to work with Dr. Rozner at IH.

-Doris Otten. Darlene Cushman wrote The LEAF to inquire if her Mother, Doris Otten, and her could still tour Building 1. Doris lives in Miami, but is staying with Darlene in Delaware for a couple of months while she undergoes chemo. Darlene noted, “I have wonderful memories of NOL in the 50’s. We came to movies on Friday nights, the carnivals, open houses. It was a great place.”

-Bernie DeSavage. Bernie notified us that he has been diagnosed with a malignant tumor in the esophagus. He underwent a series of test and decided on a treatment strategy; surgery was not part of the treatment. He recently began the treatment. Bernie worked in U and R Department. He ran the technology block for the Center and was the Deputy Head of R Department. Bernie is a member of the WOLAA Board and its Secretary.

-Missing Alumni. Supplement A provides our missing alumni list. We located several more during the last 3 months. Please take the time to review if you haven’t. We really want to locate our friends and alumni from the WOL. Email your information to mrsrat218@aol.com, call at (301) 439-3140 or write to the WOLAA PO Box. We have several new missing alumni; so will provide a new, update list for the Summer LEAF.

*Deceased Alumni

Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni: phone is (410) 489-2977 or email or write WOLAA. Tributes to deceased alumni are very welcome by The LEAF; email or mail them to WOLAA.

-Dr. James G. Brennan. Dr. Brennan was on our missing alumni list and Dr. Walter Madigosky notified WOLAA that James died in January 2002 at age 74. He was professor emeritus at Catholic University. He had worked at WOL as a consultant for over 30 years; his focus was theoretical nuclear-physics. Dr. Brennan served as acting head of the Nuclear Physics Branch.

-Frank Taxweiler. Chuck Kuehne was asking about "Tax" at the Florida luncheon. When he returned home, Chuck researched Frank and discovered Frank Taxweiler had died in the Fall of 2007 at age 82. He was born in Kingston, PA and raised in Mount Carmel, PA. He served in the Navy as a member of the UDT. He was an engineering technician in the Evaluation Division of U Department. He is survived by his wife Sue and a stepson, Larry Beasley. Chuck Kuehne noted several of the interesting field tests that he was on with Frank.

-Carol Biser. Marilyn Graham notified WOLAA that Carol Biser died in the Fall of 2008. Carol had been living in Cocoa Beach, FL and was Head of Payroll at the WOL.

-Joseph Nahas. Joe died at age 78 on 4 January 2009. He was born in Braidwood, Ill., and he served in the Marine Corps both in Korea and locally. As a weapons engineer at the WOL, he traveled to Korea and Vietnam. He was part of the group that investigated the explosion on board the Navy battleship USS Iowa in 1989. He was instrumental in starting several gun clubs and served as treasurer for the Berwyn Rod & Gun Club in Bowie and the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends; traveling with his wife; and being active with ATLAS and the Laurel Senior Friendship Club. Joe is survived by his wife, Betty Nahas; son and daughter-in-law Joseph and Vickie Nahas; and son John Nahas.

-John J Gamble. John died on 9 January 2009 at age 87. He retired from NAVSEA in 1981, and then, did consulting work for RCA until 1986. He served in the Navy in WW II as an aviation radioman, participating in the Battle of Midway. He received a BSEE from Catholic University in 1953 and worked at NOL for most of his career. He worked in U Department in the Electrical Systems Division and then moved to the Product Engineering Department. He resided in Silver Spring and then Annapolis; he moved to Leisure World in 2000. His first wife, Stefanie died in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; daughter Andrea Sall; son, Brian; three stepchildren; 8 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

-Robert M. Schmiech, Sr. Bob died on 15 January 2009 at age 82 while recovering at home from heart surgery. He served in the army and then attended Catholic University where he received a BSME with high honors. He worked his entire career at the WOL in U Department as a safing and arming specialist. Bob served as a Branch Head and Division Head. He received the NSWC Dahlgren Award for his excellent work on using sections of the shock tube at the DL to represent a double hull submarine for test of the new warhead for the MK 50 torpedo. Bob worked for Epoch Engineering after retiring from the WOL. He was an avid golfer and active in the Catholic Church. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary; son Robert M. Schmiech, Jr; daughters Patricia Miller and Peggy Hopkins; 8 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

-Will Wright. Will died in early March 2009. He worked at NOL in U Department as a ME. He worked on SUBROC and other underwater systems. He moved to Mustoe, VA after retiring from the WOL in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Kay.