

April 2020



Indian River Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 644047

Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047

***Indian River Chapter
Since 1983***

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Do you know someone who is a retired or former military officer or widowed spouse of an officer, but not a member of our chapter or MOAA? If so, ask them to join and contact **Carroll Oates** at 954-494-8742.

April 2020

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MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

TOPIC: ANNUAL DUES

By Jim Blake

The meeting was postponed. No vote was taken.

The Board of Directors submits the following Bylaws amendment for vote at the 20 March luncheon business meeting:

Article V - **Dues**, Section 2, of The Bylaws of the Indian River Chapter, Vero Beach, Florida, of The Military Officers Association of America MOAA, Formerly The Retired Officers Association (TROA), Last Revised December 2016, shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 2. The **annual dues** for a calendar year shall become due on 1 January. Any Surviving Spouse Member whose deceased spouse was a Regular Life Member of MOAA and any Member Emeritus will be exempt from paying annual dues.

Jim

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

By Jay Torres

"A chapter must be politically nonpartisan. However, a legislative committee can and should make a deliberate effort to inform its membership of candidates' positions."



April 2020

**WE RESCHEDULED OUR SPEAKER
FOR OCTOBER 16, 2020**



NICOLE PASSONNO STOTT

Our planned speaker for April 17th, retired **Astronaut Nicole Stott**, is rescheduled for October 16th!

To date, 562 humans have traveled in space, 62 of them women. Nicole is a veteran of two International Space Station (ISS) expeditions and three Space Shuttle missions.

She was also a member of a 6 person crew, which spent 18 days on the Aquarius undersea research habitat testing equipment and techniques for future lunar operations. She consequently holds the women's world record for saturation diving.

Nicole started as an engineer at NASA in 1988, was selected for astronaut training in 2000, and retired with 27 years NASA service in 2015.

She lives in St. Petersburg and is now a full time artist, using her artwork to share the awesome beauty of space. Nicole is a remarkable person, who has agreed to share her experience and insight with us. By the way, Nicole was in an Olay commercial for Superbowl 2020; you can view it on line. Search for "Olay Super Bowl 2020 Commercial."

Submitted by Terry Treat

Indian River Chapter Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

By Robert Scheppy

Would you like to submit an **Article of Interest**? Send it to Robert Scheppy, Editor, for inclusion in the Newsletter. scheppy70@gmail.com

POSTAL CONNECTIONS

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A FASCINATING PIECE OF HISTORY

THE JAPANESE SURRENDER

TOKYO BAY 1945

Submitted by Terry Treat

(Original author uncertain)

Why did the United States choose a US Navy Iowa-class battleship as the location for Japan's surrender in World War 2?

They were in Tokyo Bay and could have used a building on land. Pure symbolism. Nothing says "you're utterly defeated" than having to board the enemy's battleship in the waters of your own capital city.

A naval vessel is considered sovereign territory for the purposes of accepting a surrender. You just don't get that if you borrow a ceremonial space from the host country. In addition, the US Navy originally wanted the USS South Dakota to be the surrender site. It was President Truman who changed it to USS Missouri, Missouri being Truman's home state.

The Japanese delegation had to travel across water to the Missouri, which sat at the center of a huge US fleet. It's a bit like those movie scenes where someone enters a big-wig's office, and the big-wig is sat silhouetted at the end of a long room, behind a massive desk.



Photo: 1945 Japanese delegates on the deck of the USS Missouri to sign the document of surrender. Minister Shigemitsu walks with a cane.

In addition, the USS Missouri flew the flag of **Commodore Matthew Perry's (1794-1858)** 19th century gun-boat diplomacy mission that opened the closeted Edo-era Japan to the world and forced upon them the Meiji restoration, which ended the rule of the samurai class. The symbolism here is pretty clear - "this is how we want you to be, and remember what happens to countries that defy us."



Stamp: 1853 Commodore Perry in Tokyo Bay.

It was particularly humiliating for a proud country like Japan, and that was entirely the point. The symbolism of the ceremony was even greater than that. The ship was anchored at the precise latitude/longitude recorded in Perry's log during his 1845 visit, symbolizing the purpose of both visits to open Japan to the West. Perry's original flag was also present, having been flown all the way from the Naval Academy for the ceremony.

When the Japanese delegation came aboard, they were forced to use an accommodation way (stairs) situated just forward of turret #1. The freeboard (distance between the ship's deck and the water line) there makes the climb about twice as long as if it had been set up farther aft, where the freeboard of the ship is less.

This was even more of an issue for the Japanese surrender party as the senior member, **Foreign Affairs Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu**, was crippled by an assassination attempt in 1932, losing his right leg in the process.

(Continued on next page.)

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(Continued)

The #1 and #2 turrets had been traversed about 20 degrees to starboard. The ostensible reason for this was to get the turret overhangs out of the way to create more room for the ceremony on the starboard veranda deck, but in fact this would have only required traversing turret #2 had it been the real reason. However, the turret position also put the gun tubes directly over the heads of the Japanese. They were literally boarding the ship "under the gun".



Photo: Standing behind General Douglas MacArthur: American General Jonathan Wainwright, who surrendered the Philippines in 1942, and British Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival, who surrendered Singapore in 1942. Both men spent the war in Japanese prisons. MacArthur gave Wainwright and Percival pens he used to sign the treaty.

The honor guard of US sailors (side boys) were all hand-picked to be over six feet tall, a further intimidation of the short-statured Japanese.

The surrender documents themselves, one copy for the Allies and one for the Japanese contained identical English-language texts, but the Allied copy was bound in good quality leather, while the Japanese copy was bound with light canvas whose stitching looked like it had been done by a drunken tailor using kite string.

After the signing ceremony, an Allied air armada of over 400 aircraft flew overhead as a final reminder that American forces still had the ability to continue fighting should the Japanese have second thoughts on surrender.

"These proceedings are closed," said General MacArthur. The ceremony was over.

OUR CHAPTER IS ON FACEBOOK

By Jay Torres

You can visit our chapter on Facebook:

Indian River Chapter Military Officers Association of America



From Eric Menger

The Board of Directors of the Vero Beach Air Show announces the 2020 Air Show scheduled for April 25-26, 2020 at the Vero Beach Regional Airport has been postponed in response to recent public health concerns regarding COVID-19.

This has been a very difficult decision to make. The postponement comes at the guidance of federal, local and state health officials and the statement from the Department of Defense regarding domestic travel restrictions. The safety of our guests, volunteers and performers is our first and foremost priority.

All purchased tickets and parking permits for the 2020 Air Show will be honored at the next scheduled Vero Beach Air Show. We will keep Vero Beach Air Show Facebook page and website updated with any new information.

April 2020

ASTRONAUT SCOTT KELLY PROVIDES TIPS FOR LIVING IN ISOLATION

This week, the Naval War College Foundation had the pleasure of speaking with NASA astronaut CAPT Scott Kelly, USN (Ret.), who spent a year in near isolation aboard the International Space Station in 2015. Kelly offered his advice to those of us who are dealing with challenges presented by the need for social distancing, sheltering in place, and quarantine as a result of the coronavirus.

MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE

If I could compare this experience to my time in space, I would say the most important thing is for people to have the right perspective. I knew the time frame for returning home when I launched to spend a year in the space station, but it was so far in the future that I had to put my living situation into perspective: “This is my reality. This where I live now. It will be over someday, and my priority right now is to do my absolute best to complete my mission.” I think we’re in the same kind of circumstance now. It is open ended. We don’t know how long it’s going to last, but making the right decisions and following the appropriate guidance is now our mission. We all need to be good team members and contribute to that mission. And if we do, we will be successful.

ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE AND BUILD IN TIME TO GET OUTSIDE

Having a tightly controlled schedule aboard the space station was kind of annoying at first, but I got used to it. A schedule allows you to find time for work, for yourself, for connecting with family, and for going outside. Going outside is so important for our mental physical health, particularly when it comes to our immune systems NASA studies have taught us that our immune systems get suppressed in times of isolation, so we need to take precautions like getting outside to keep ourselves healthy, but please do so responsibly within the parameters set by your local officials.

STAY INFORMED, BUT FIND DISTRACTIONS

When I was in space, it was important to me to get the appropriate amount of time for rest, exercise, and hobbies like reading or, in my case, writing. Those activities are helpful in distracting us from the 24 hour news cycle. It is incumbent upon all of us to stay informed,

but it is detrimental to our mental health to binge watch the news 24/7.

TRUST THE EXPERTS

One thing I learned at NASA over my 20 years was that it’s not all about rocket science, but when it is about rocket science, we should trust the rocket scientists. The same goes for this. Be sure you are consulting reputable, respected outlets, like the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the World Health Organization (WTO) - and not your friends on social media, an entertainer, or internet troll.

DON’T LET FEAR OVERWHELM YOU

This situation can clearly produce a lot of anxiety, apprehension, and concern, but I try to counsel people that they shouldn’t be scared. As much as you can, try to look at this situation objectively and recognize that there are things we can control and things we can’t. When fear enters the equation, it limits our ability to make the right decisions. The first time that I went into space, was I scared? I was. But I quickly recognized that I needed to focus on what I had control over—in my case that was being the pilot of the space shuttle. I know people will be afraid, but you need to do your best and not let it overwhelm you. The way to do that is to focus on what you have control over: your environment, supporting your family and your friends, your work—if you’re lucky enough to work from home—and getting the appropriate amount of rest, exercise, and sunlight, as all that can impact your immune system. We don’t need our immune systems to be suppressed, because we are in isolation. It’s also important to have a goal and a plan to get there, as well as a backup plan—what might be the next big thing on the horizon and what is the plan to always make things better.

WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS, BUT IT’S GOING TO TAKE EFFORT FROM ALL OF US

One of the things I realized being in space is that we are all part of this one big humanity, and I recognize it even more now as we confront this virus. We have an incredible capacity to deal with this, but it requires us working together to overcome it.

Submitted by Patty Ryan

April 2020



APRIL CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION
IRC Luncheon, Friday April 17, 2020
Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

APRIL LUNCH IS CANCELLED.

Menu Choices:

- Poached Salmon w/dill sauce and rice
- Beef Bourg over noodles
- Chicken BLT Salad



For any questions feel free to email Kelly Menger at kcremens@hotmail.com

-----Tear Line -----

Send reservations and payment by 5:00 PM

Friday April 10, 2020

VERO BEACH YACHT CLUB

Name (s) _____

Menu Choices: \$22.00 per person \$

(1) Pouched salmon w/dill sauce and rice \$ _____

(2) Beef Bourg over noodles \$ _____

(3) Chicken BLT Salad \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make the check payable to IRC-MOAA. Mail to:

IRC-MOAA, P.O. Box 644047, Vero Beach, FL 32964