

May 2015

President's Corner

by John Toth, LTC USA (Ret)



Over the past month, I was involved in the process that dissolved the Boulder Veterans Council (BVC). While the BVC was a great idea, it faltered because it struggled to find veterans willing to provide the leadership to fulfill its charter. It's unfortunate and regrettable, but I believe that we will continue to accomplish its goals through continued coordination with the other veteran organization in Boulder County.

This experience has made me reflect on our own organization, our purpose, and our future. While we have a strong group of leaders, we lack the involvement of other members to help accomplish the day-to-day tasks to facilitate communication, organize events, and conduct outreach on behalf of the chapter. We could always use your help.

Our chapter is strong and growing. We've added a significant number of new members this spring and continue to attract former and retired officers from all eras. We exist to provide an opportunity for community and camaraderie in a variety of settings while providing support to our future officers at CU and looking for opportunities to serve the community in which we live. I see a bright future as we continue to grow.

As we approach Memorial Day, there are a number of ways to get involved. You can help with placing the flags at Columbia Cemetery, a task that the BVC used to accomplish but one for which AABC is now responsible. Or, you could represent the chapter at the University of Colorado ROTC commissioning ceremonies and meet the future of our officer corps. The American Legion will host a Memorial Day Ceremony, open to all Boulder County veterans, on Memorial Day at 11:11am; why not attend and represent MOAA?

If you are interested in attending any of these events or would like more information on opportunities to get involved in the chapter, please contact me at john.ryan.toth@gmail.com.

- John Toth



It is discovered that Private Muggs' dyslexia contributes to his unfortunate inability to read convoy maps.

!!! Lost & Found !!!

A tan jacket was left at the February Members' Breakfast Meeting. Contact Gary Reid @ (303) 494-5053.

Inside This Issue

- 1** President's Corner
- 2** Inside This Issue
- 2** Treasurer's Report
- Welcome Aboard!
- Taps
- 3** Council of Chapters
- Member Mike Traxler
- 4** Buster Crabb
- CVR Upcoming Program
- INS Application Form
- It's a Small World
- AABC Picnic Notice
- Photo Menagerie

Chapter Officers

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	Membership Chair / ROTC
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Ross P. Jackson	Secretary
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Gary Reid	Treasurer
	303-494-5053

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Dick Smith	Past President
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TBD	CCOC Liaison
Hal Riggs	Chaplain
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	303-494-6122
Dave Lovering	Newsletter Ed
	303-588-5166
TBD	Photographer



From the Treasurer's Desk

by Gary Reid

General Report

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Treasury</i>	
3 Honorary	General Fund	\$4,176.86
16 Auxiliary	USO Fund	\$ 12.34
30 ROTC	Scholarship Fund	\$5,407.35
88 Regular		
137 TOTAL	TOTAL	\$9,596.55

Awards

In early April, AABC made distribution of four \$500 scholarships to the following:

Army: Cadet Cary Sullivan

Navy: MIDN Jordan Witt

Marine: MIDN Abigail Lealaimatafao

Air Force: Cadet Cameron Coupe

Medals

Army: Cadet Travis Reddick

Navy: MIDN Chad Alvarez

Marine: MIDN Ty Gunnlaugsson

Air Force: Cadet Rachel Jovene

ANNUAL DUES

2015 dues are presently due. If you haven't paid, dues for Regular members are \$30 for the year. Auxiliary members are \$15 for the year. Dues can be sent to:

AABC

P.O. Box 17224

Boulder, CO 80308-0224

Welcome Aboard

submitted by Gary Reid

Michael Traxler is a recently retired LTC, USA. Mike and his wife Lynn live in Superior. Mike's service included the Iraq War.

Veronica Hebert retired from the Navy at the grade of Captain. She lives in Boulder with her husband Bruce and served during the Gulf War conflict.

Dottie Nazarenus is also retired from the Navy at the grade of Captain and lives up in Fort Collins, so has a longer trip to our meetings.

Taps

submitted by Gary Reid

KAREN SAMUEL 1944 - 2015 |

An uncommonly special lady - Karen Samuel of Boulder - was tragically taken from us at Boulder Community Health on the evening of April 10, 2015. Karen was born July 29th, 1944 to Virginia Brown Kretsinger and C.E. ("Buddy") Kretsinger in Sherman, TX.

She graduated from Sherman High School in 1962. She then attended Texas Tech University and East Texas State University. She next turned her treasured adventurous spirit loose, working at large festive parks where she elevated the "have fun" ambitions of legions of children she chose to lead in play. Next she extended the "fun and frolic" style she happily represented to a new primarily adult audience as a hostess for the Texas Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

After returning home, Karen proudly advanced to the American Airlines Stewardess College, where she successfully trained to host the airline's passengers. She met her husband to be Lieutenant David Samuel during her training while he was likewise in an exciting flight training program. He was upgrading to be an Air Force instructor pilot at Vance AFB, OK. David and Karen were married in December, 1965. She was a wonderful mother of their two sons Jeffrey and Mark a devoted wife, and a vibrant source of uncommon diversions into joyful, magical lands. Karen was very sadly preceded in death by her son Mark Samuel, and later her parents Virginia and Jack Kretsinger.

She is survived by her husband Colonel David Samuel (retired) of Boulder, Colorado; son Lt. Col. (retired) Jeffrey Samuel of Roseville, California; daughter-in-law Susan Samuel of Granite Bay, California; grandsons Jack and Dylan Samuel, also of Granite Bay; sisters Lou Ann Booker and Margaret Reynolds of Sherman, TX; and Marilyn Kretsinger and Nelda Cooper of Denison, TX.

A memorial for Karen is planned for family and friends on Saturday, April 25 at the Boulder Valley Church of Christ, 270 N. 76th Street, Boulder at 11:00.

Published in The Boulder Daily Camera from Apr. 22 to Apr. 23, 2015

"The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time."
-- Mark Twain



Council of Chapters

The 2015 Colorado MOAA Membership State Convention was held in Colorado Springs, Saturday 2 May 2015 at the USAFA Falcon Club.

AABC was represented by Dick Smith and Pete Jackson who joined several CCOC Board Members representatives from other Colorado Chapters attending the event.

The theme for this year's convention was "MOAA: One Powerful Voice for Colorado's Military and Veterans". Speakers and Panel Members were Col Mike Hayden - MOAA Director of Government Relations, Colorado Representative Terri Carver (HD20), Annie Oatman-Gardner - head of Senator Bennet's Colorado Staff and Greg Dorman - Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It was a very informative and energetic meeting. Pikes Peak Chapter president, Stewart Laing also presented "Chapter Strategic Planning".

The next regular CCOC Board meeting will be hosted by our AABC in September.

New Member - Mike Traxler



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Mike Traxler received a Regular Army Commission through the University of Colorado ROTC program and served as an Active Duty Army Officer from 1992 until 2013.

LTC (R) Traxler began his career as Tank Platoon Leader in the 82nd Airborne Division; later transitioned to the Logistics branch, serving in a variety of positions to include assignments as Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer in the 1st Infantry Division; and completed his career as an Acquisition Officer, serving as the Army Science Advisor to the United States Special Operations Command and finally as the Army Product Manager for Soldier Precision Targeting Devices.

LTC (R) Traxler holds a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering (University of Colorado) and a M.S in Industrial Engineering (Oregon State University). His military training and education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course, Airborne School, Jumpmaster School, Army Command and General Staff College, and the Program Manager's Course. His operational deployments include Haiti, Kosovo, and Iraq.

Mike lives in Superior and is a Material Program Manager at Research Electro-Optics in Boulder. He is married to Lynn



Not all pilot-trainees have fully grasped the meaning of "touch-and-go" approaches

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Konecne Traxler of Arvada, Colorado. They have three children; Jake (16), Maya (13), and Ben (10).





BUSTER CRABB

1

In October of 1955, several Soviet Naval ships visited the British port of Portsmouth. Observers noted that a cruiser, the *Sverdlov*, was unusually maneuverable. British intelligence secretly sent a diver to survey the underwater hull for any special features. It was discovered that the *Sverdlov* had an auxiliary propeller that could be lowered from the bow. The operation was considered a success, and the Soviets were apparently none the wiser.

The covert scrutiny was conducted by a commander in the Royal Navy named Lionel Crabb. Probably due to the popularity of an American actor at the time (whose last name was spelled Crabbe), he was called Buster Crabb. Born in London on January 28, 1909, Crabb was attracted to the sea and joined the merchant marine as soon as he could leave school. When the Second World War began, he joined the Navy Patrol Service and then qualified as a frogman despite poor eyesight. The Italians, who invented the frogman concept, were busy planting limpet bombs on the hulls of British ships in harbors like Gibraltar and Alexandria, Egypt. Crabb's job was to remove these bombs and to attempt to capture any Italian frogmen he might encounter. While apprehending one of them, he was once stabbed in the leg. After opening the harbor of Venice, he was put in charge of keeping the northern Italian ports open and earned the Order of the British Empire for his accomplishments. In 1948, he was commissioned an officer and specialized in underwater bomb disposal.

Later, he was assigned to removing limpet bombs placed on the underwater hulls of British ships in Palestinian harbors by fervent Jewish militants. He then worked on development of covert operations and in 1953 was engaged in a assignment in the Suez Canal area. It was so secret that it still has not been made public.

On April 19, 1956, Nikita Krushchev and Nikolai Bulganin arrived for a state visit in England at the harbor of Portsmouth aboard the *Ordzhonikidze*, a 16,000 ton Soviet Navy cruiser escorted by two Soviet destroyers, the *Smotyashchy* and the *Sovershenny*. By this time, Crabb had been knocking around at loose ends and was a sometimes-salesman for cocktail bar furniture for a friend. He would disappear from time to time and show up around the naval docks with a sword cane embossed with a golden crab, trying to look impressive. By this time, he was smoking and drinking excessively. He apparently was tapped again by MI6 to explore the hull of the *Ordzhonikidze* to detect any features that might be of value to British intelligence.

He was escorted to the *Ordzhonikidze* by three other frogmen who were told not to remain in the area after Crabb reached the *Ordzhonikidze*. The Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, had specifically forbidden any British intelligence to engage in any intelligence activities related to the Soviet fleet while it was in the British port. Therefore, the investigation was formally under the control of the American Central Intelligence Agency in case anything went wrong. After reaching the *Ordzhonikidze* and leaving Crabb, the other three frogmen returned to the Kings Steps dock. Crabb was never seen again.

The fate of Commander Lionel "Buster" Crabb has been the subject of several conjectures and strange stories. The official story was that Crabb died while testing new underwater gear. On June 9, 1957, three men fishing spotted what looked like an old tractor tire in the water. When they retrieved it, it was found to be a human body with the head and hands missing. It was wearing what looked like a rubber suit and was covered with marine growth, indicating that it had been in the water for a long time. The body was so



BUSTER CRABB

2

mutilated that it couldn't be identified by his wife or friends. The rubber suit, however, was identified as being a frogman type. On July 5, the body was buried without any military honors. No Navy personnel attended the funeral. Crabb's mother maintained that the body was not that of her son and never visited the grave. His name was inscribed on the headstone simply as *Commander Crabb* with no first name.

A year earlier, a body was found in the Channel but slipped away when it was being retrieved and sank out of sight. It was never recovered.

A Soviet sailor came forward with a story that Crabb had been captured and taken back to the Soviet Union to train Russian frogmen of the *Spetsnaz*, literally *Death to Spies* organization. There had been rumors that MI6, British counterintelligence, wanted to plant an agent in the Soviet underwater forces and that Crabb's name had been mentioned as a possibility. A photograph purporting to show a Soviet naval person who looked like Crabb showed up, but his identity was never verified.

When Anatoli Golitsyn defected to the CIA, he revealed that Kim Philby, a Soviet spy in MI6, had told the Soviets of the intelligence mission against the *Sverdlov* and likely had known of the plans to make covert observations of the *Ordzhonikidze*. Kim Philby was recruited by Soviet intelligence when he was attending Cambridge and belonged to the infamous Cambridge Group. He defected to the Soviet Union where he led a depressing existence, disillusioned when he found out the truth of the Soviet system. When he died, he was buried in a Moscow cemetery with a simple headstone.

Probably the most bizarre story came to light from a person who identified himself as Captain Christopher Crichton, a retired Royal Navy officer. He claimed to have been with Crabb when he dove on the *Ordzhonikidze* and that they removed three mines from its hull, allegedly planted there by Soviet dissidents who were not happy with Krushchev and were trying to kill him. Crichton claimed he then went to check the other two ships but found nothing. When he returned, he saw that Crabb was in trouble. Crichton claimed to have been using the standard underwater scuba gear but that Crabb had been using a new recycling apparatus which Crichton did not trust. When Crabb appeared to be attempting to surface, Crichton said he had to hold him down to keep him from being seen by the Soviets. (Russians had in fact complained about seeing a frogman near their ship.) As a result, Crabb had drowned. Crabb may have been out of shape for diving due to his long abuse of cigarettes and alcohol. Crichton's story was never confirmed nor his true identity established.

Another story was that Crabb was killed on orders from MI6. No compelling reason was ever given as to why they would have wanted him dead. The story was probably just a romantic fiction.

The true story may never be known. Under the Official Secrets Act in Great Britain, secret papers may be declassified after 30 years but the records relating to Crabb will not be released until 2057, a hundred years after his supposed death. The headstone on his purported grave was changed to include his middle name, however.

AABC-MOAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Checks payable to ADM Arleigh Burke Chapter MOAA. Please mail to Secretary, PO Box 17224, Boulder, CO 80308-0224

Officer's Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____ Rank: _____ Service: _____ Spouse's Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____ Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____ Please Notify By <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Email</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Postal Mail</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Both</i>	Officer Status: <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Former</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Retired</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Active</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reserve</i> National MOAA Member? <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Annual</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Life</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>No</i> National MOAA Member Number: _____ Period(s) of Service: <i>(see address label on MOAA Magazine)</i> <small>(check all period(s) you or your spouse served on active duty)</small> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>WWI (07 Dec 41 - 31 Dec 46)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Korea (27 Jan 50 - 31 Jan 55)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Vietnam (05 Aug 64 - 07 May 75)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gulf War (02 Aug 90 - TBA)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Afghanistan (2002 - 2013)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Iraq (2003 - 2011)</i> Annual Chapter Dues & Donations <input type="checkbox"/> <i>New member</i> <i>Regular (\$30/yr)</i> \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Renewal</i> <i>Auxiliary (\$15/yr)</i> \$ _____ <i>ROTC Scholarship Donation</i> \$ _____ Current Date: _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____
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!!! Special Notice to Breakfast Attendees !!!

We've moved! For those who haven't attended Saturday Breakfast Meetings in some time, we're now located in the Frasier Meadows facility in Boulder at 350 Ponca Place in the top floor meeting room. [The building is directly opposite the Admiral Arleigh Burke Memorial, and the main entrance is under the green canopy].

The regular (full) breakfasts are now \$15, and the continental breakfasts are now \$12.50.

If you do not receive a notice from your designated caller, please contact Gary Reid at garyreid4@com-cast.net or call (303) 494-5053 to confirm your seating.

It's A Small World

by Bob Brockish

A number of years ago Thornton High School began an annual Oral History Day in April. They invite veterans to tell their stories to the morning history classes. For several years I have been going there and telling my story of growing up in Denver in the 1930s and 40s, serving in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and then continuing my life after coming home. This year I talked to three of the four class periods.

After the third session a girl student came up to me and said her grandfather had been a Marine in Korea. Her grandfather had died about ten years before she was born but she knew his legacy. Although there were thousands of us there during the three years of the war, I asked his name. She said "Julio Lucio". Astonished, I said I did.

Her grandfather was one of twelve Marines in my squad in the summer of 1951. What a coincidence. Another student had run my PowerPoint for me. I asked him to back up to a particular photo. Then I showed the girl a photo of her grandfather holding a BAR with me and our squad. It was a "Brownie" snapshot blown up on the screen so it was very grainy. The next day I forwarded a better version of the photo to her email address. A day or so later I received a reply stating that her parents were so excited to hear about me serving with her grandpa, and the picture made their day! They said they would like to meet me one day. I intend to make that happen. When events like this occur we realize what a small world we live in.

Bob Brockish, USMC Korea 1951.

"Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people that they don't like." -- Will Rogers

AABC Picnic Notice

When: Saturday 11 July 2015, 1500 Hrs (3 pm)

Where: Jan & Hal Riggs' Home

Address: 804 E Laurel Ave - Boulder, CO 80303

Phone: (303) 494-6122

The tentative schedule is to meet & greet fellow members and friends at 3, and serving will commence at 1630 Hrs (4:30 pm). Although some dishes will be provided, guests are invited to bring offerings to this Pot-Luck -- selections to be determined by the last digit of their home phone number. Lists will be distributed closer to the event.

Those who haven't visited Hal and Jan before are in for a treat: their house is filled with finely displayed museum-quality curios, historical artifacts, knick-knacks, and what-have-you -- sure to launch countless earnest conversations among fanciers of the rare & beautiful.

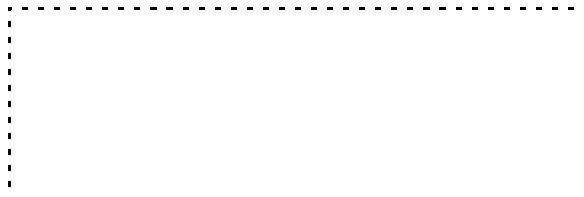
Parking will be on-street: handicapped-friendly access to the picnic area is provided via the back-gate as needed. Those requiring assistance are invited to call.



804 E Laurel Avenue, Boulder, CO 80303



A Photo-Menagerie



Note: Annual Dues and Contributions to the Scholarship, USO or General Operating accounts may be made at Members' Breakfast Meetings or sent by mail to AABC, P.O. Box 17224, Boulder, Colorado.



The Admiral Arleigh Burke Chapter

BOULDER MOAA NEWS

The Military Officers Association of America

About the Program:

Speaker: Justin Eugene Smith, Sheriff of Larimer County

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2015

Topic: *Justice in Colorado - Interaction of Various Law-Enforcement Agencies*



A native of rural Kansas, Smith graduated in 1985 from McPherson High School in McPherson in McPherson County in central Kansas.

Smith holds bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice from Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas, and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

He came to Colorado in 1986 to work that summer in a YMCA camp tending to the livery stables and developed a fondness for his adopted state. Right out of college, joined the Larimer County Sheriff's Department in 1991. He was initially assigned to Estes Park, the gateway to the Rocky Mountain National Park. He was promoted to major in 2003. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy, the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and the National Sheriffs Institute. He has been an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Colorado State University in Fort Collins and has participated in many law enforcement leadership training programs over the years.

His wife, Anne Caroline Smith (born c. 1966), is a former 911 dispatcher. The couple has two young adult sons and reside in Fort Collins, after long-term previous residence in Estes Park.

THIS MONTH WE ARE MARKING ARMED FORCES SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY AND MOTHER'S DAY WEEK-END WITH A SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF AABC SPOUSES AND MOTHERS. Please feel free to invite your loved ones to attend as special guests of the Chapter.

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