

The Retrospect - January 2011 - Military Officers Association of America

The revelers at the annual Chapter Christmas Reception on December 18 at the Bayshore Club had a terrific time. They enjoyed the fabulous buffet (many delicious desserts and ice cold shrimp will win every time!), danced to the music of DJ, Howard Koutney (Forte Talent Inc) who knew the songs that encourage participation, and mixed it up mightily. The reception was enhanced by the lighted candle centerpieces, donated by member, Mario Gutierrez (Island Flowers, 1520 E 7th Ave Ybor City,

813-878-3990), the extra-special gowns on the ladies, and the bemedaled uniforms of our members. Lt. Col. Ken Martin, USMC, RET. chaired his first reception and did an outstanding job. (After chairing nine Christmas parties and receptions, I decided that enough was enough and it was time for someone else to take over).

The highlight of the evening was a massive door prize giveaway. The DJ drew numbers and gave each winner one of the table decorations that were provided by Island Flowers. It wouldn't seem possible that so much fun could be had just by giving away centerpieces, but in this case the —giver was a very witty EMCEE/DJ and he provided much laughter and cheering. Two people won \$20 gift certificates to Columbia Restaurant and two couples won four passes to Busch Gardens.

As in previous years, a feature of the reception was our USMC Reserve Toys for Tots Drive. We filled three large boxes with toys and games and our generous party goers also donated \$700 in cash. A part of the cash came from a special raffle of our famous singing bears.

A popular activity was Major Scottie Cleland's —Christmas Portrait Studio. Scotty took pictures that will bring memories of a most enjoyable evening of the dancing, people enjoying conversations and many couples at his corner Christmas tree.

By Col. Ron Buchert, USAF (Ret)