The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

April 2023
Issue 175

President's Message	1
V P Message	2
12 Month Calendar	4
Convention Details	5-10
Chaplain's Message	11
Personal Affairs	12
Surviving Spouse	14
Legislative Affairs	16
FDVA Update	18
Chapter Activities	22-34
FCoC Information, Chapters, Board & Committee Chairs	37-41

Submit Input to:
Randall Fiebrandt, CDR, USCG (Ret) - Editor
rfiebs1953@gmail.com

President's Message

CDR Patrick R (Pat) Kluever, USN, Ret.
Naval Aviator (1320) - Navy Test Pilot School Graduate (Class-71)

Ahoy Shipmates!

As able-bodied seaman and honored members of the Florida Council of Chapters crew, your presence (with your spouse or other as appropriate) is requested at the renowned Renaissance hotel and convention center in the Ancient City of St Augustine at the famous World Golf Village just off I-95 on 19 & 20 May 2023.

Your convention team has met several times at the Renaissance and it is a magnificent venue with a wonderful staff in a one-of-a-kind setting at the World Golf Village. Take time to walk and relax in the serene surroundings, while just a short drive away are a treasure chest of family attractions and history in the oldest continuously inhabited city in our country. First-mate Steve Bond will explain details of this spectacular event in a following article. Ron and Nancy Birchall and their team from Ancient City Chapter have arranged some outstanding events both at the Renaissance and downtown in St Augustine with veteran's discounts.

Our special convention rate applies 3 days before and 3 days after, so come early and stay late, and bring family to visit some of the amazing attractions and beaches in and near St Augustine.

If golf is your game, take advantage of great rates for the charity golf tournament starting at 0800 on 19 May. The Slammer & Squire course is an 18-hole, 6,939-yard course designed by architect Bobby Weed along with World Golf Hall of Fame Members, Sam Snead (the "Slammer") and Gene Sarazen, (the "Squire"). You'll discover a layout that places an emphasis on the short game which was reflective of the finesse game that made the "Slammer" and "Squire" legends. The proceeds of this tournament will all go to combat homelessness for veterans in the St Augustine area.

Mary and I served as your advanced party so beware of immense gators at the

Continued on next page

St Augustine gator farm. The photo shows President Pat being **rescued from the jaws of a big-one at "The Farm."** Ron has advised that you **might encounter pirates or buccaneers** both in town and at the Renaissance - we had our photo taken with a pirate so you will know what to look for.

You will enjoy self-parking at the Renaissance that is close, plentiful, and free. Your automated driving assistant will take you to the hotel if you load in 500 South Legacy Trail, St Augustine, FL 32092. Three venue map displays are provided below to assist if needed (with increasing detail). Be sure to enter the above address for the Renaissance, as there are other World Golf Village venues on both sides of I-95 at Exit 323.

I look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event and I want to personally thank Ron and Nancy Birchall and their outstanding Ancient City Chapter team for planning and managing this amazing convention for our Florida MOAA members and guests - Well Done Team!! Bravo Zulu!!

Best Regards,
Commander Pat

Vice President's Message

COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret)

April is here and it feels like summer outside--That also means we are gearing up for MOAA's signature legislative push, "Advocacy in Action," and we are in final preparation for our annual Florida-wide Convention next month! Meanwhile, our Membership Campaign is in full swing to attract new members into our chapters.

First, on the Membership Campaign--Over the past several months we have worked with MOAA National to encourage the over 30,000 non-chapter MOAA members in Florida to join a chapter. On April 5th, MOAA President and CEO Lt Gen "BK" Kelly (USAF-Ret), sent an email to those MOAA members residing in Florida who are not chapter members, encouraging them to join a local chapter. The email also informs them how to find the nearest chapter and invites them to our May convention. Our goal with this push is to let those non-chapter MOAA members know what we do and get them to join a chapter. The next step in the campaign is for chapters to send an invitation email (from MOAA) to non-chapter MOAA members in their area and invite them to a chapter luncheon, dinner, Officers Call, or other event, and to join. Instructions for requesting the MOAA email went out to Area Vice Presidents and Chapter Presidents earlier this month. Let's keep up the momentum to build stronger chapters and raise our numbers--Let me know if you have any questions!

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

In concert with MOAA, our Florida Advocacy in Action campaign is underway! The council has plans to meet with all the Florida Congressional Delegation or their staffers on Capitol Hill on April 26th. All our Chapters and members are key to this effort, and we need your support to send in the pre-printed letters from MOAA's *Military Officer* Magazine and TAKE ACTION through MOAA's Legislative Action Center to convey your support. Our legislative team has more information on how chapters and members help. Let's make sure our voice is heard on Capitol Hill—loudly!

The annual Convention is right around the corner and is shaping up to be a momentous event! Hosted by the Ancient City Chapter, it is at the Renaissance Hotel in the World Golf Village in St. Augustine from May 19th-21st. There is more information on the convention in this newsletter, but it includes a golf tournament at one of the world-class golf courses there, tours and activities in St. Augustine, a bourbon tasting, presentation of Harris Communications Awards, a military ball and more! Registration is now open—go to our website (www.MOAAFL.org). *Note: Registration closes on April 27th*.

Chapter leaders please encourage participation by your members and support the Convention with an ad in the convention program—artwork and payment are due by April 15th!

At the convention, we have an outstanding lineup of Business Partners and exhibitors. We appreciate their support to ensure the convention is a success. Please help us show our appreciation by visiting their tables, talking to the representatives, and viewing their advertisements. We can not do a convention of this size and keep the costs low without them! For a preview of the participating business partners, advertisers, and exhibitors, see page 7.

Looking forward to seeing you in St. Augustine!

Steve

NOTABLE DATES FOR APRIL & MAY

April

Month of the Military Child - An opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience.

April 5, 2023 - Gold Star Spouses Day - A day set aside to recognize the sacrifices of Gold Star spouses.

April 14, 2023 - Air Force Reserve Birthday

April 15, 2023 - Purple Up! Day - During the Month of the Military Child, Purple Up! Day recognizes some of the military's most unsung heroes – their children. The day encourages everyone to wear purple representing all branches of the military and showing unity with each other.

April 23, 2023 - Army Reserve Birthday

April 30, 2023 - National Military Brats Day - A day set aside to honor the children of military personnel.

May

National Military Appreciation Month - A month to recognize and show appreciation to the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

May 12, 2023 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day - A day set aside to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of the spouses of the U.S. Armed Forces.

May 13, 2023 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day - A day to honor the families our Fallen Heroes have left behind – especially their children. It's a reminder to the community that we have an obligation to support the families of our Fallen Patriots.

May 20, 2023 - Armed Forces Day - A day set aside to pay tribute to men and women who serve in the United States' Armed Forces.

May 29, 2023 - Memorial Day (Decoration Day) - A day set aside to commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States.

MOAA Take Action

12 MONTH CALENDAR

2023 MOAA Community Outreach (former USAA grant program) is open until all funds are depleted
24-28 APR 23: Advocacy in Action (AiA) in D.C.
01 MAY 23: Level of Excellence (LOE) Application window closes
18-21 MAY 2023 - FCoC Convention, World Golf Village St Augustine
31 MAY 23: AMBA (Mercer) Ad Program Application window closes
01 JUN 23: Legislative Liaison Nomination window closes
01 JUN 23: Surviving Spouse Excellence Award Nomination window closes
31 AUG 23: Tentative Date - FCoC Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
21 OCT 23: FCoC Fall Board Meeting (Virtual)
28-31 SEP 23: Georgia State Convention - Dahlonega, Georgia
25-27 JAN 24: FCoC Leadership Training Seminar - Orlando at Rosen Centre
01 FEB 24: Harris Communication Award Input Due
28 FEB 24: MOAA Foundation Grant Request window closes
01 MAR 24 - MOAA Scholarship application window closes
APR 24 (TBR): Advocacy in Action (AiA) in D.C.
01 MAY 24: Level of Excellence (LOE) Application window closes
13-15 May 24: FCoC Convention, Shores Resort & Spa Daytona Beach
31 MAY 24: AMBA (Mercer) Ad Program Application window closes
01 JUN 24: Legislative Liaison Nomination window closes
01 JUN 24: Surviving Spouse Excellence Award Nomination window closes

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Quiz of the Month:

April 30th is National Military Brat Day - Do you know where the term, “Military Brat” might have come from? Take a guess. Answer on Page 20.

MOAA Take Action

Military Officers Association of America
Ancient City Chapter

Is hosting the …

2023 FCoC Annual Convention

The Ancient City Chapter (MOAA-ACC) located in St. Augustine, Florida is honored to be hosting the *Florida Council of Chapters Annual Convention* in 2023.

St. Augustine, the Oldest City in the U.S., is known for its Spanish colonial architecture as well as Atlantic Ocean beaches, numerous historic military sites and 457 years of history.

Some sites of interest include: The Castillo de San Marcos, the National Military Cemetary at the St. Francis Barracks, Fort Matanzas, Fort Mose, St. Augustine Lighthouse, The Alligator Farm, the Lightner Museum, Flagler College, and The Pirate Museum.

And don't forget to stroll St.George Street with its incredible shopping and many unique restaurants.

The Convention will be hald at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092. There you can enjoy a tour of the World Golf Hall of Fame or enjoy a unique movie experience at the IMAX Theater.

The Convention is being held 19 – 21 May 2023 and Group Room Rates will be honored for all attendees three days before and three days after the Convention.*

Play Golf – Win Prizes – Meet other Chapter Members

MOAA-ACC presents the Slammer & Squire Charity Golf Tournament, Friday, 19 May 2023, 0800 Shotgun Start, 4- person Scrambe. Email: MOAACCMembers@gmail.com for details.

If you choose to fill out the 2023 Convention Registration Form, pleae mail the complete form along with your check to the address below, or register online at "moaafl.org". Reservations should be submitted by April 27th, 2023. Cutoff date to cancel with reimbursement is 12 May 2023.

Register and Pay Online at "moaafl.org" or make check payable to
FCoC – 2023 Convention
P.O. 60603
Ft. Myers, FL 33906

Questions / Comments
Please send an email to MOAAACCMembers@gmail.com or call
Ron Birchall, LTC – USA (Ret), MOAA-ACC Convention Chair at 904-794-2883
See you there!

MOAA Take Action

2023 FCoC CONVENTION AGENDA

DATE	START	END	FUNCTION	ROOM
		THURSDAY		
5/18/23	1600	1700	Early Event Registration	Hospitality Suite 237/238
		FRIDAY		
5/19/23	0800	1430	Golf Tournament	Slammer & Squire
5/19/23	0800	1500	Hotel Registration	Hotel Desk - Lobby
5/19/23	0800	1800	Event Registration	Hospitality Suite 237/238
5/19/23	0800	1800	Exhibits	St. Augustine Lobby
5/19/23	0800	1800	Silent Auction	St. Augustine Lobby
5/19/23	1500	1700	Board Mtg #1	St. Augustine "E"
5/19/23	1800	1900	President's Reception	St. Augustine "D"
5/19/23	1915	2200	Tours / Events	Note (1)
		SATURDAY		
5/20/23	0900	1500	Hotel Registration	Hotel Desk - Lobby
5/20/23	0900	1700	Exhibits	St. Augustine Lobby
5/20/23	1000	2300	Hospitality	Hospitality Suite 237/238
5/20/23	0800	0900	Business Mtg	St. Augustine "E"
5/20/23	0900	0945	Memorial Serv.	St. Augustine "D"
5/20/23	1000	1130	Brunch	St. Augustine "D"
5/20/23	1130	1230	SSM Update	St. Augustine "D"
5/20/23	1230	1330	CCA Update	St. Augustine "D"
5/20/23	1330	1430	Legislative Update	St. Augustine "D"
5/20/23	1445	1700	Bourbon Tasting	St. Augustine "A "
5/20/23	1445	1730	Free Time	On Your Own
5/20/23	1800	1845	Dinner Reception	St. Augustine Lobby
5/20/23	1900	1915	Welcome	St. Augustine "D"
5/20/23	1915	2200	Military Ball	St. Augustine "D"
		SUNDAY		
5/21/23	0900	1000	Hospitality Suite	Hospitality Suite 237/238
5/21/23	0900	1030	Board Mtg #2	St. Augustine "E"

NOTES

(1) Busses to Old Town - Dinner/Tours as Desired - Return Bus 2200 (Same as drop off)

Dinner / tour packages will be available with veteran discounts for many offerings

Free Time Options: Gator Farm - Car Museum - IMAX - Golf Hall of Fame - Beach

MOAA Take Action

A Salute to our Convention Business Partners!

President's Reception Sponsor:

United Healthcare

Convention Sponsor:

FLEET LANDING

Military Ball Sponsor:

UNISEN SENIOR LIVING

UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL

MOAA FOUNDATION

ST. AUGUSTINE Alligator Farm ZOOLOGICAL • PARK The Zoo for You!

Full of Life

Convention Sponsor:

Florida Blue

MOAA VACATIONS

CONCERNED VETERANS FOR AMERICA

Indian River Colony Club

FLORIDA

La Fiesta OCEAN INN & SUITES

VETERAN'S LAST PATROL

Hudson A DUFRY Company

RENAISSANCE WORLD GOLF VILLAGE RESORT ST AUGUSTINE

Fountain of Youth

BIRCHALL & CO.

UFHealth PROTON THERAPY INSTITUTE

GEHA

Humana Military

G-FORCE

HIGHMARK HEALTH

HERBIE WILES INSURANCE

USAA

And More...

Be sure to see their ads in the Convention Program and stop by their tables!

MOAA Take Action

MOAA Take Action

MOAA Take Action

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)
ANCIENT CITY CHAPTER
& FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

SLAMMER & Squire

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

ENTRY FEES

$175 pp for convention attendees • $225 pp for other MOAA members and veterans • $275 pp all others

Breakfast & Registration Starting at 0700 • Beer & Brats at the Putting Practice Green

2 Open Beverage Carts • Florida barbeque lunch • Gifts, Prizes & Contests!

Entry Fee Includes Green Fee, Golf Cart & Range Balls

All sponsorship proceeds support the MOAA-ACC Charitable, Educational and Scientific Fund, Inc., a Florida 501(c)(3) charity and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. This fund supports local JROTC students, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and homeless veterans throughout the area.

SPONSORSHIPS

Title Sponsor:	$3000
Golf Cart Sponsor:	$2000
Beverage Cart Sponsor (2) @	$1000
Range Sponsor:	$1000
Practice Putting Green Sponsor:	$750
Hole Sponsor:	$500

Sponsor Name:_____ Sponsorship Level:_____ First Name:_____ Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

REGISTER NOW, PAY LATER!

Player One
First Name:_____ Last Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Player Two
First Name:_____ Last Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Player Three
First Name:_____ Last Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Player Four
First Name:_____ Last Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

AND, for 2024 ….

The 2023 FCoC Convention in St Augustine is just around the corner and planning for the 2024 Convention has already begun. For the 2024 Convention, the West Volusia MOAA Chapter, at home in Deland, has taken on the responsibility for being the host chapter. Volusia is home to world renowned Daytona Beach and it is where the 2024 Convention will be held. Various hotel venues had been approached and the one selected as best suiting our needs is The Shores Resort & Spa (www.shoresresort.com). This hotel is located on A1A on the ocean side and has rooms that face the ocean, the river, or has views of both. Look at their web site to see all that is offered at this hotel/resort. Please mark your calendar for the 12th to the 15th of May, 2024, and be prepared to enjoy "The World's Most Famous Beach" while gathering to soak up MOAA's Florida Council of Chapters hospitality as you are getting informed on a multitude of Florida and national issues.

Peter S Durnell
Chair, Host Chapter Planning Committee
FCoC 2024 Convention
West Volusia MOAA Chapter

Chaplain's Message

By CH (COL) Anthony P. "Tony" Clark, ARNG, Ret.

March: the spring-loaded month. Spring-loaded because March ushers in the welcome season of spring and all the rites of spring: spring training, spring-cleaning, and springing forward with Daylight Saving Time.

Spring training practices and games in Florida's Grapefruit league are opportunities for batters to regain their timing at the plate, pitchers to build endurance for Opening Day, and position players to get back to basics: turn the double play, hit the cutoff man, and lay down a bunt.

If you're not a spring training fan, you can spend time with spring cleaning. Spring is the time to clear away the signs of our brutal Florida winter: trim the dead leaves and branches, store the cold weather gear, and service the AC in anticipation of another long, hot Florida summer.

What's the point of mentioning spring training and spring cleaning? For me, they each represent important mindsets, attitudes, and actions that we need to "spring forward" into the rest of the year with focus and energy.

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

A spring training mindset encourages us to continue learning, growing, and living with curiosity. I am, for example, in a new role at work and that requires learning new processes, meeting new people, and working outside my comfort zone. What do you plan to learn or study as you spring forward from March?

A spring-cleaning frame of mind keeps us aware of the need for pruning, weeding, and prioritizing in our life. What people, activities, groups, and time commitments truly bear fruit (make a difference) for you and others? Maybe some foliage (busy but not truly fruitful activity) needs that spring-cleaning mindset.

As the calendar flips to April, remember the lessons of March - keep learning, keep pruning - and you'll be ready when, as Christopher Morley said, "April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks, Go!"

*****

Passover began at sundown on April 5th this year.

O God of freedom, purify the hearts of all people. Free us from the destructive impulses of hatred and strife, of greed and the lust for power, and fill us with good will and the love of justice. Let us strive for that great Passover of the future, when sword and spear shall be broken, when freedom and peace shall reign forever. On that day, all shall come to know that we are of one human family, and gladly proclaim You their God and Redeemer. Amen.

Easter is celebrated on April 9th this year.

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Affairs

Col Paul Loschiavo, USMCR (Ret)

Zelle

Five years ago, I needed a kidney transplant. Through Facebook, I found a donor - a young Marine in California. We were discussing the logistics of getting him from the west coast to Florida.

He said, “I don’t have any money.” I responded that he need not worry. I’d cover all of his expenses. I offered to overnight him a check. He said “Better idea. Send it by Zelle.”

Zelle? What’s that?

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

Kids use it all the time. It's a bank-to-bank transfer. Most banks offer it. I checked my bank's app. One of the tabs said "Zelle." I clicked on it, put in my donor's cell phone number, and saw his name. I filled in "$5" and put in the comment block "let me know when you get this." I hit "send."

Thirty seconds later, I received a text from him. "Got $5." I sent him the full amount. He flew to Florida. I get my kidney.

Zelle is super simple, very quick, and free. If you don't believe me, click on Zelle on your bank's app. Put in a grandchild's cell number, and send $5.

Why do I mention this? Aside from the fact that it's extremely convenient, your Chapter can use it to collect money for events.

Unless your chapter only has a phone number, you can use an email address. The Palm Beach - Martin Counties Chapter happens to have one. Our treasurer went into the bank and connected "moaapalmbeach@gmail.com" with our checking account.

Now, when a member signs up for an event, some members mail checks. A growing number open their bank's app, click on Zelle, put in "moaapalmbeach@gmail.com," enter the dollar amount, and hit send.

They get an email from their bank stating that it went, and the chapter gets an email saying that the member sent however many dollars they sent.

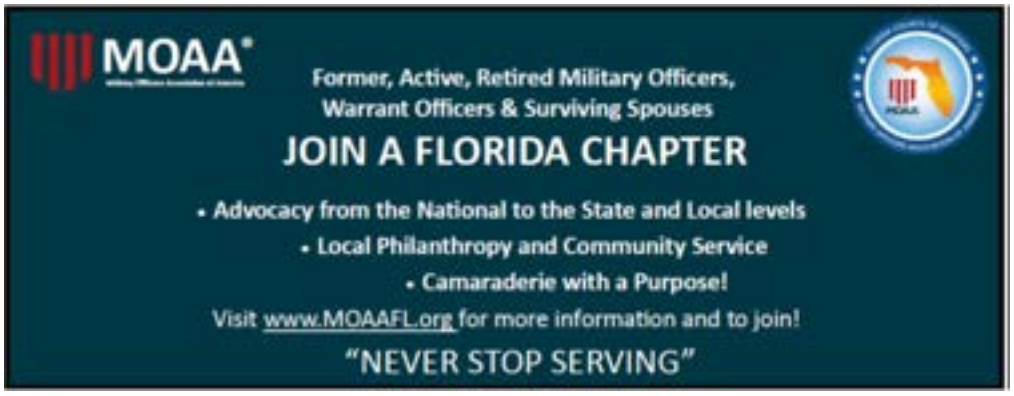
It's instant and free. No longer does PayPal take a noticeable portion.

Why do banks do this? I don't know for a fact, but I'm sure that it's much less expensive to transfer money by Zelle than by handling a check. Think about it. A Zelle transfer requires no human activity. You can't really say that about a paper check.

The Zelle website says that over 1,600 banks participate in Zelle. I checked a bunch of the common bank names in Florida and they all participate. Just log onto your bank's mobile app, look for "Zelle" or maybe "transfer money," and give it a go.

And if you're involved with the finances of your chapter, consider using it. It really is simple and efficient.

Give it a try. You may not end up with a kidney transplant, but your grandkids will love it!



Surviving Spouse Corner

Patricia Green, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Tax Time Considerations

If you have already filed your 2022 taxes, BRAVO!

Some have not. Some are procrastinating. Others may be receiving documents through mid-March depending on investments held or have just received amended or corrected documents and are just beginning the process.

Please file by the due date, if at all possible. You may file an automatic extension, but taxes are due on the April date. If you extend, don't wait to file on October due date, file as quickly as you can. A relocation, an illness, or a family death, could happen to you or your preparer (consultant) in that time frame, and create more complications.

2023 tax considerations for those widowed in 2022

If your spouse died in 2022, you can still file 2022 taxes as married as long as you have not remarried in 2022.

Next year, 2023, you must file as single if you have not remarried or have no dependents. This can cause tax consequences you should consider and prepare for. See the charts below. (Information was taken from the IRS publications Form 1040, and instructions for Form 1040.)

1040 STANDARD DEDUCTIONS	single	married
2022	$12,950	$25,900
If over 65, an additional	$ 1,750	$ 3,500

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

1040 TAX TABLE 2022 (examples)		single	married
	Income $50K	tax due $ 6,623	$ 5,592
	Income $100K	tax due $17,830	$13,229

As your deduction goes down, the tax rate goes up. This disparity grows as income grows. See below.

1040 TAX RATES 2022 for income exceeding $100K

Single	%	married	%
$100,001 to 170,050	24%	$100,000 to 178,150	22%
Jumps to higher %		$178,150 to 340,000	24%
$170,050 to 215,950	32%	$340,000 to 431,900	32%

These tables demonstrate that a lower single income is taxed at a higher rate than married income.

If your spouse was the higher income earner, there will be a change in tax owed, but it may be a manageable increase or it could be less. If you are the higher income earner, you will have a lower standard deduction and you may pay taxes at a higher rate.

Investigate these changes or discuss them with your tax preparer. Be prepared. If you need to convert an investment to cash, be aware of the tax consequences.

Possibly your spouse always did the tax filings and this is new to you. If you are overwhelmed, get help. If a mistake is made or some income or deduction is overlooked, you can always file an amended return. Give it your best effort and try to file by April 18, 2023 and prepare for the 2023 changes.

One more thing….

If you missed the last SS Virtual Chapter meeting when Lt Gen Kelly addressed our group, and there was a discussion of Advocacy in Action, contact me through the website. The meeting was recorded and I can send you a link and passcode.

If you are not yet a member, go to the MOAA website. Search for the Surviving Spouse Virtual Council fill out the membership application and return it according to the instructions. If that does not work for you, print the application, fill it out and scan or photograph the form and send it to me deg06@aol.com.

Also, be sure to sign and send in the blue letters (included in the MOAA Magazine) to our Majority and Minority Congressional Leaders. Send your own letters to them, as well as to your Florida Congressmen and Senators. Participate in preserving military benefits earned.

Legislative Affairs

Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF, Ret., Legislative Chair

MOAA Legislative Update:
Read about the latest MOAA Advocacy News and Calls-to-Action here.

https://moaa.quorum.us/

Take Action Now!

What's Behind Curtain Number Three?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will have read about the **TWO Primary** goals for this year's Advocacy-in-Action Campaign when we will be asking members of Congress to

- ensure that our servicemembers get 100% of their Housing Allowance by supporting **BAH Restoration**;
- ensure language in the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) directs an analysis of access data to assess the impacts of **Pharmacy Network Cuts** and thus expand the network participants**.**

Both of those two goals are key components of the compensation and benefits package that sustains the all-volunteer force and are essential to addressing what's behind the proverbial third curtain:

Combating the growing crises facing the recruitment and retention of the all-volunteer force.

Since the end of the military draft in 1973, the AVF has protected our nation at home and abroad. But now, DoD finds itself in a war for talent:

- The services are struggling to recruit and retain the force we need to defend our country and support our allies when called upon.
- The active component faces an environment where personnel shortages result in increased workloads and reduced quality of life amidst a recruiting crisis.
- The National Guard is worried about rebounding from the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic and its largest mobilization since World War II.

Lawmakers must no longer ignore the decreased interest in – and eligibility for – military service.

- only 63% of servicemembers, retirees, military families, and veterans would recommend military life to someone,
- 77% of young Americans would not qualify for military service without a waiver due to being overweight, drug use, or having mental or physical health problems.
- only 9% of young people who do meet the eligibility criteria are interested in military service.

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

Reversing these worrying trends requires a whole-of-government approach, and Congress must use all the tools at its disposal to keep the AVF ready and capable.

- To ensure the future of the force, the current force and the pool of veterans and retirees who previously served must both be taken care of to ensure they exert a positive influence to serve for the next generation of potential recruits.
- The treatment of and perspectives of influencers across all aspects of their experience, both during and after they served, is often more impactful and important to recruiting than the actual marketing messages or efforts by recruiters.

Deliberate steps such as improving physical fitness and health programs in our education system, will help increase the pool of eligibles over time.

Investing in uniformed community housing, health care, child care, food insecurity prevention, and improved facilities and services will make a meaningful difference to those already in service.
:

We must ensure military pay and benefits stack up so that recruiters have a chance in building up today's All Volunteer Force.

Your Florida AiA teams will be addressing this with our legislators on April 26th in DC

Support Expanding Arlington National Cemetery with Second Location and Full Burial Benefits

The years long campaign to preserve the burial eligibility for military retirees in Arlington National Cemetery continues.

ANC will not reach capacity with current eligibility standards for another 42 years and a long-term solution to protect the equivalent level of benefits is warranted.

Here are the FACTS

- ANC will eventually run out of room.
- An enduring solution is required to maintain an equivalent level of benefits.
- The VA runs 155 national cemeteries and the DoD runs ANC.
- While DoD's primary focus for resources is national security, partnering with VA will provide an integrative approach with resources.
- Transforming a VA national cemetery to afford full military honors would sustain an equivalent of benefits at an existing facility.
- Cooperation between DoD and VA can offer a solution in which VA runs operations, and the armed services provide ceremonial honors at the same level as ANC.

Florida has the second largest number of military retirees – 210,073. We need to rally the troops to protect the benefit of in-ground burial with full military honors for those who plan for internment or inurnment at a DoD managed National Cemetery.

Continued on next page

Send this message today asking for support for this legislation H.R. 1413, The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act which will transform an existing cemetery and sustain equivalent military honors provided at Arlington National Cemetery as it reaches capacity. [MOAA | Ask Your House Member to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act (quorum.us)]

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

Lt Col R. Steven Murray, USAF (Ret.)
Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Governor's Framework for Freedom Budget Strongly Supports Florida's Veteran Community

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis' Framework for Freedom Budget provides timely and essential services and support to the state's 1.5 million Veterans, their families and survivors through the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA).

FDVA is a constitutionally chartered State Veterans' Affairs department responsible for serving the Nation's third largest Veteran population. Operating as the premier point of entry for Florida's 1.5 million Veterans, FDVA operates a network of nine State Veterans' Homes and provides statewide outreach to connect Veterans with their earned services, benefits and support.

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Executive Director James S. "Hammer" Hartsell said: "As a Navy Veteran, Governor DeSantis is a true patriot who appreciates and understands our Veterans' community. Since 2019, he and his administration have committed hundreds of millions of dollars to our department, helping to ensure a positive future for our nation's heroes and their families. Because of his leadership and administration's collaborative focus on enhanced Veterans' Advocacy, Florida is the most Veteran sought-after and Veteran-friendly state in the nation."

Included in this year's budget recommendation is an increase in the number of Veterans' Claims Examiners in Florida, reflecting an expanding population influx, the state's large Veteran population and projected growth of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities. In 2022, FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners operating out of VA health care facilities assisted more than 272,000 veterans in providing information and counsel on earned services, benefits and support. In addition, claims examiners have processed nearly 35,000 new claims on behalf of Florida Veterans, and helped recover more than $194 million in retroactive benefits for Florida Veterans and their families.

Continued on next page

In addition, one of the biggest responsibilities within FDVA is its network of State Veterans' Homes. The State of Florida boasts eight State Veterans' Nursing Homes and one State Veterans' Domiciliary, including two newly opened homes in Port St. Lucie and Orlando.

Governor DeSantis has proposed funding for capital improvements and replacement of medical and resident support equipment in the state's veterans' homes. Other veterans' home funding includes additional funding to complete the staffing needs for the two new veterans' homes, an electronic time system and support to ensure all of the homes are able to maintain necessary operations.

The Governor's Framework for Freedom Budget continues funding for Florida is for Veterans, Inc. (Veterans Florida), and the Veterans Employment and Training Services program (VETS). Veterans Florida is a non-profit created by the State of Florida to help military Veterans transition to civilian life with rewarding career opportunities and entrepreneurship training. Veterans Florida also promotes our status as the nation's most veteran-friendly state and administers the Florida SkillBridge initiative, which connects active-duty service members with Florida-based jobs in the six months prior to discharge.

The 60-day Florida Legislative Session is well underway. One of the key Veteran-related pieces of legislation, known as "Veterans' Services and Recognition, is moving through the House and Senate. The two bills, HB 485 and SB 824, create a Division of Long-Term Care within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, expand the eligibility of Florida Veterans to become County Veteran Service Officers, and create the "Veterans' Adult Day Health Care of Florida Act" to provide additional services to eligible Veterans in the future. You can follow the week-to-week deliberations of the legislature as it relates to more than two dozen Veteran-related issues by visiting our website at www.FloridaVets.org and clicking on "Veteran Legislation."

The final countdown is approaching to get your nominations in for the Class of 2023 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. Deadline is May 31, 2023. For more information on guidelines and nomination forms, click here.

Answer (from page 4):
An article by Katie Lange from April 12, 2017

We've all heard the term "military brat" before. It pertains to those children who grew up in military families. "Brats" wear the name like a badge of honor, often because of the moves, stressors and cultural experiences that make them more resilient than their civilian counterparts. *But outside of the military, the word brat is often considered derogative. So it made me wonder -- where did the term "military brat" originate?*

To find out, I reached out to the folks at National Defense University Libraries, who did some research for me. It turns out the origin of the term is still pretty unclear, but there are a lot of interesting theories behind it, and most of them originate in Britain.

BRAT could be an acronym for British Regiment Attached Traveler
I first found this theory published in a 2011 blog by retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael M. Dunn, who was the president of the Air Force Association at the time. Dunn, who had also been the president of NDU, had asked a researcher to find the origin of the term.
One came through, discovering a book published in 1921 that attributed the saying to the British army. It explained "BRAT" as a status standing for British Regiment Attached Traveler, and it was assigned to families who were able to travel abroad with a soldier. Eventually, it just referred to military children. But the term stuck, and was adopted in many places around the world, including in the U.S. While the researchers I spoke to at NDU couldn't find that particular citation that Dunn mentioned, it's a pretty interesting story. And other published researchers have also traced the acronym to the phrase British Regiment Attached Traveler.

Earliest References Were From the 18th Century
Dr. Grace Clifton, a professor at Open University in the UK, has done research with the U.S. Army's Dr. Becky Powell into the origins of the term. Clifton found reference to a song written in 1707 for a satirical play called "The Recruiting Officer" that described soldier life and that of their dependents. Back then, married soldiers were divided into two categories: the lucky few who were allowed to have their families live in the barracks and be taken care of by regimental funds, and those whose families had to live outside the barracks. The song referenced the latter as being "brats and wives." The lyrics may have been the first reference to brat in relation to military families. But it also may have referred to any children. So, that's still a bit of a mystery.

A Contraction for 'Barrack Rat?'
Clifton said the term "barrack rat" was also used at the end of the 18th century in the U.K. when discussing stories about the lives of children in army barracks, so it's possible that the two words were turned into a contraction to create the term brat.
"Barrack rat" also surfaced in "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English." It cited the book "Old Soldier Sahib" written in 1936 by Frank Richards, a British soldier who detailed his experiences while stationed in India and Burma during the early 20th century. In that book, Richards said "children born in barracks were referred to as 'barrack-rats:' It was a wonder to me how the poor kids survived the heat, and they were washed-out little things."

Still No Clear-Cut Answer
Trent University's Dr. Jennine Hurl-Eamon has also researched childhood during the wars of the 18th century. "I must confess that I have come across no archival or early print material as yet that offers a clear indication of how the term 'brat' emerged," she said.

*Many modern day military brats will tell you that B.R.A.T. stands for **B**orn **R**esilient **A**nd **T**ough and others might tell you it stands for **B**eing **R**elocated **A**ll the **T**ime.*

You decide.

Florida Council of Chapters "Chapter News"

Northwest Florida Chapter

Fran Hendricks, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret) President, NWFMOA

Valentines for Veterans

For nearly 65 years, the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (NWFMOA), an affiliate of the Military Officer Association of America, has been making a difference in the lives of Veterans in the Okaloosa and Walton Counties. One of its community outreach initiatives this year was to partner Bob Hope Village (the Air Force Enlisted Village) with Longwood Elementary School, whereby second grade students made Valentines and delivered them to the residents on Valentine's Day. This endeavor allowed the students to express their appreciation for the service and sacrifices made by this Veteran community and their families through the gift of a handmade Valentine. The students presented their Valentines to the residents during the annual Valentine Day Brunch at Bob Hope Village.

Valentines for Veterans was first enacted in 1996 by General Ron Fogleman, Air Force Chief of Staff, and was intended to support the Department of Veteran Affairs weeklong National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. Today, the VA has expanded the salute to the entire month of February and has renamed it, National Salute to Veteran Patients Month.

Citrus County Chapter

By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), Communications Director

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter president, COL Pete Tan, USA (Ret), presents a certificate of appreciation to Citrus County Commissioner Diana Finegan for her presentation to Veterans at the March 7, 2023 MOAA sponsored speaker event held at the American Legion Post 155. Pictured at left is Veteran David Halbstein, a Congressional Aide for 12th District Congressman Gus Bilirakis, who attended the event.

Southwest Florida Chapter

Jeff Cahoon, President, MOASWF

The Military Officers Association of Southwest Florida held its 55th Annual Military Ball on the 4th of February. Dance music was provided by Uptown Express and Vanderbilt Country Club in Naples served as a fabulous venue. Lead by COL Michael Shoen and MAJ John Sarnecky, Collier County JROTC Cadets once again supported our Ball. Cadets helped with setup the morning of the Ball and later provided a Drum Corps, Sabre Line, and Color Guard at the Ball. Many thanks to all those Cadets for their participation and Outstanding support.

Now arriving … LTC Robert Frazier, USA and Johnnie Lawton

Find & Join a Chapter

The Military Officers Association of Southwest Florida (MOASWF) supports Collier County JROTC programs. On 29 April, a Collier-Lee Honor Flight mission will take off for Washington D.C. On board will be 7 Collier County JROTC Cadets (and one chaperone) sponsored by MOASWF to serve as Guardians for veterans participating in the mission. This should be a wonderful and fulfilling experience for those Cadets. And on 12 May, MOASWF will support Collier County JROTC programs with a JROTC Awards Banquet to be held at Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club in Naples.

Cape Canaveral Chapter

Marilyn M. Sanford, MOAACC Media Relations

Col James Finlayson, Commander, Air Force Technical Applications Center

Colonel James “Cobra” Finlayson was the guest speaker for the February luncheon of MOAA’s Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC). The luncheon was held at The Tides Club, at Patrick Air Force Base.

Colonel Finlayson hails from El Paso Texas. He received his commission in 1997 from the USAF Academy. Prior to assuming his current command, he was the Vice Commander of the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow AFB in Texas, serving as the principal assistant to the Wing Commander. He was responsible for overseeing two training groups-----a mission support group and a medical group. Previously Colonel Finlayson served as the Chief of Staff, J2 Directorate for Intelligence, US Strategic Command, located at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. He has been forward deployed on five occasions to Egypt, Qatar, and Afghanistan, supporting Operations Bright Star, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

He assumed his current command in June 2022. The AFTAC is a garrison equivalent center located at Patrick SFB. It monitors nuclear treaty compliance using seismic, hydrostatic and satellite systems through the US Atomic Energy System to preserve our nation's security. When a disturbance is detected underground, in the atmosphere, or in space, the event may be analyzed for nuclear identification and reported to national command authorities.

L-R: Col. Rick Kniseley, USAF/Ret. MOAACC 1st Vice President; Col. James Finlayson; Lt Col. Brian Whalen, USAF/ Ret. MOAACC President

SHAPE Officers' Association (SOA) Visit to Space Coast

The U.S. Chapter of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Officers' Association (SOA), visited the Space Coast from March 9 to 12, and the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the MOAA (MOAACC) was on hand to welcome them. MOAACC and SOA member LTC Skip Taylor (USA-Ret) organized the visit that included meetings and social activities at the Indian River Colony Club (IRCC) and visits to area attractions.

The distinguished visitors included Gen John Shaud (USAF-Ret), SOA President and former SHAPE Chief of Staff from 1987-90; U.S. Chapter President Col Gene Gay (USAF-Ret); and LT GEN Robert Chelberg (USA-Ret). LT GEN. Chelberg is a Floridian and served in a variety of SHAPE and NATO assignments, including as Executive Officer to SHAPE commander GEN Bernard Rogers, and is currently the President of Wounded Veterans Relief Fund.

The theme of the gathering was Space and the Space Coast. The MOAACC Speakers Bureau provided three speakers for presentations to the gathering. The keynote speaker was Maj. Gen Ed Wilson (USAF-Ret), former commander of the 45th Space Wing and the Eastern Range and civilian Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Cyber Policy. He provided the history and a mission update on the Space Program. Dr. Jane Hodges, former public affairs representative at the Kennedy

Space Center, spoke on the Shuttle and Artemis Programs and about the Space Center. Col. Susie Dabrowski (USAF-Ret), MOAACC Liaison to the 45th Space Force Delta, provided an update on the Space Force.

The group also heard an insightful and informative update on the Ukraine situation by SOA member COL Bruce Bach (USA-Ret). Bruce currently serves in an advisory capacity in Eastern Europe with the RAND Corporation.

(L-R) General Shaud, President of SOA; Maj. Gen Ed Wilson, Keynote Speaker; Dr. Jane Hodges; Col. Gene Gay, President US Chapter of SOA; and Col.Susie Dabrowski

Sun City Center Chapter

CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret), MOAA_SCC Newsletter Editor

Members of the Sun City Center Chapter take the phrase *Never Stop Serving* to heart and recently put the sentiment into action. The members spent part of their day at My Warrior's Place, a Retreat Center for our Veterans, Military Service Members, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters, Gold Star, Blue Star, and Silver Star Families. My Warrior's Place is a 501(c)(3) non-profit located directly on the Little Manatee River in Ruskin, FL.

My Warrior's place is soon to relocate to Punta Gorda, FL, and our members toiled in removing tribute bricks and replacing them with regular bricks in preparation for their move. It was a beautiful day and a great turnout!

Indian River Chapter

Lt Col Carroll Oates, 1st Vice President

IRC-MOAA Chapter Gives Recognition and Thanks for its "Friends of Indian River County-MOAA"

Every successful organization has its share of friends who support the organization even if they cannot become full-fledged members. We are no different and want to give recognition and thanks to our friends. Our Bylaws allow our Chapter to designate deserving individuals as **Honorary Affiliates**, but we often refer to them just as Friends of IRC-MOAA. And they certainly are friends and more. They are patriots who assist us in all sorts of ways. They attend our meetings and support our fundraisers. They participate in our efforts to support all veterans and volunteer with Veterans in the Classroom, writing applications for grants, serving at the Air Show booth and other events and activities.

Many are former enlisted service members and their spouses or just plain patriots who we want to recognize here and now. They cannot vote or pay dues, but they donate time and resources to our causes. Here is a list of our **Honorary Affiliates:**

Ken & Michelle Dale. Ken is a retired Army NCO and Michelle is currently the leader of the Florida Gold Star Mothers. They both serve on our Veterans in the Classroom Team.

Gordon and Barbara Sulcer. Gordon is a former USAF enlisted member and he and Barbara help with our marketing efforts. They operate a marketing firm.

Doug and Shirley Gillis. Doug is former USN enlisted. They both assist at all our fundraisers and events such as the Vero Beach Air Show booth.

John & Carla Mathews. John is a decorated USMC NCO, the chairman of the Vero Beach Veterans Memorial Island Committee and a member of our MOAA WWII Tribute Planning Team. Carla is an attorney who advises on legal issues.

Jeff & Jennifer Palleschi. Jeff is a former USMC NCO and a member of our fundraising team for the WWII Tribute. Jeff and Jennifer will open a new distillery in May in Vero Beach and have devoted a major section as a wall of honor. It will become a gathering place for local veterans.

Gary & Floy Turner Carmichael. Both Gary and Floy are retired Florida Law Enforcement Officers who support our causes. Floy has also authored several books about her years in law enforcement.

Rob & Cynthia Ryan. Rob is a former USMC NCO and a senior detective with the county sheriff's office. Cynthia is the Executive Director of the Indian River Veterans Council. Our Chapter always has a few MOAA officers on its board and we work closely together on all of its missions.

Patricia Geyer. Pat is a contracted employee of the Veterans Council. Her expertise is in writing applications for grants and her track record is impressive. She has, several times, assisted our chapter in obtaining grants and provides oversight and advice.

Duke Scales. A well-known building contractor and all around Veteran supporter for years, Duke is an accomplished bugler and provides taps and other patriotic music at funerals and our events. As a graduate of Notre Dame University, Duke runs with the top dogs locally and is well known in our county.

Barbara Ruddy. Barbara is like the energizer bunny and is a member of our WWII Tribute Planning team. She is the daughter of a WWII veteran and is passionate about raising the funds needed to complete our tribute. She attends most MOAA meetings, donates to our causes and is proud to be considered one of us.

Laura Moss. Laura is an Indian River County Commissioner and strong supporter of IRC Veterans. She comes to most of our meetings and helps promotes our causes.

Joseph Fletcher. Joe is another popular county commissioner who attends all council meetings and helps ensure veterans rights. His son and daughter both graduated from The Air Force Academy (future IRC MOAA members) and both are on active duty.

Ingrid Hernandez. Ingrid is a decorated former US Army NCO and has been an alternate on our MOAA veterans in the classroom team. She is on the council board of directors and a member of Next Gen Veterans.

Jay Woodhull. A former nine year NCO Army veteran and the son of one of our recently deceased loyal members, USAF Captain Tad Woodhull, Jay enjoys participating with his father's friends at IRC-MOAA and is a donor to our WWII Tribute.

Philip Canall. A Gold Star Father who enjoys being with veterans and an association which understands the cost of service, Phil attends meetings and wants to participate as much as possible.

IRC-MOAA is fortunate to have so many friends in our community. We, for a longtime, realize that to be a very successful chapter we need to be well entrenched in our own back yard. The Honorary

Affiliates program cost us nothing but promises to deliver long-term benefits for both the chapter and the community. Everyone is Still Serving.

To all listed above, we give our thanks and consider you one of us.

Col Marty Zickert USAF (Ret), Ist VP of IRC MOAA Chapter, Ken Dale, SFC US Army (Ret), Michelle Dale, Leader of Florida Gold Star Mothers, Phillip Canall, Gold Star Father. The Dales and Phillip Canall are now IRC MOAA Honorary Affiliate Members.

Halifax Area Chapter

Pierre Louis, CW2, USMC, Retired

Dr. Victoria Fahlbeg, Ph. D., Executive Director of the Volusia County First Step Shelter was the guest speaker at our recent luncheon. The shelter opened on December 11th, 2019 as a homeless shelter for single adults in Volusia County. They provide a place for homeless Veterans and many individuals to sleep and get a hot meal. In addition, they offer health, addiction, and counseling services, and services to help residents find jobs and housing. At the March 2023 luncheon, the Halif ax Area Chapter donated $300 to support the shelter's homeless veteran efforts.

Chapter President Bancroft McKittrick with Dr. Victoria Fahlberg and a replica of one of the donations.

Central Florida Chapter

CDR Randall Fiebrandt, USCG (Ret), Focus Editor/Communications

The guest speaker at our February 14th luncheon was Brian Fay, the Engagement Director for Concerned Veterans for America (www.cv4a.org). The Mission of CVA is to advocate for policies that will preserve the freedom and prosperity that we and our families so proudly fought and sacrificed to defend. The goal of CVA is to translate the experience, concerns and hopes unique to veterans and their families into a common vision of freedom.

And, at our March 14th luncheon, Randy Bryan, from the Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan, an attorney who specializes in Elder Care law, spoke of changes and updates in the law that impacts all of us somewhat elderly folk.

Prior to starting his law firm and then becoming a founding partner of The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan in 1999, Randy Bryan served on active duty in the United States Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps and worked at a small boutique firm in Winter Park, Florida. Randy continues to serve in the Reserve Component of the Navy JAG Corps, currently serving in the rank of Captain. In May 2008, Randy was recalled to active duty in support of the Global War on Terror for forward deployment to Iraq. Randy served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Detainee Legal Operations Center at Forward Operating Base Camp Buca, Iraq, which held more than 18,000 enemy combatants removed from the battlefield. He supervised a joint office of more than 50 personnel from the Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps. His insight in the differences between trusts and wills, estate planning, advance directives, and other topics was quite interesting and elicited many questions from the audience.

Clearwater Chapter

Robert J (Jim) Souders, MAJ, USAF Ret

The fascinating, almost unbelievable secret life of Howard Hughes

Mark Musick speaking about the secret life of Howard Hughes

Mark Musick (MG USAF Ret) challenged those attending the March luncheon to consider the story he was told in 2002 by a woman named Eva McLelland, who claims to have married Howard Hughes in 1970 while Hughes was living under a false identity provided by the U.S. Government. Since her husband of 31 years had just died, she believed it was time to tell someone.

The story tells of Hughes, a poorly educated genius and recluse, who was believed to have died in 1976 while living under a false identity. Hughes had taken the identity of a CIA operative who had disappeared in the late 1960's. Eva's story is one of fabulous wealth, a reclusive man unable to escape his famous life, assistance from the CIA to provide an alternate identity, and a loving wife who knew how to keep a secret. Following four years of research, Musick finally believed her story and has written two books on the subject.

Clearwater Chapter Supports Volunteer Florida Hurricane Disaster Fund

The Chapter recently received a letter to acknowledge and thank the Chapter for our donation to Hurricane Ian Relief.

Josefina Tamayo, Executive Director, Volunteer Florida Foundation wrote

Dear Clearwater Chapter of the Military,

Thank you so much for your donation of $1,000 to the Florida Disaster Fund-Hurricane Ian! We are so grateful for your support.

The Florida Disaster Fund was established to assist Florida's communities as they respond to and recover during times of emergency and disaster. The Florida Disaster Fund will help provide financial support to organizations active in disaster resonse and recovery.

Thank you again for your support. We could not do this work without you, and we are truly grateful for your generosity.

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South Central Florida Chapter

COL Mike Borders, USA., Ret.

South Central Florida Chapter Celebrates Gala Dinner/Dance

The South Central Florida Chapter conducted its 4th annual Military Gala and Dinner/Dance on March the 4th at the Island View Restaurant of Sun N' Lake Country Club of Sebring. Students from Sebring High School Air Force JROTC provided the color guard to honor our nation's flag. It was a resounding success with the National Anthem, the service songs, a packed house, great food, beautiful décor, and 'camaraderie with a purpose.

Honoring the absent

Our new flags, representing our great nation, our great state, each of the uniformed services, POW/MIA, and our chapter were displayed for all to see, along with our new chapter banner. These flags were donated by chapter member COL David Loy, USA (Ret). Dance music was provided by the Skylarks, a local orchestra and crowd favorite. The ladies committee took care of the door prizes, decorations and much more - essentially everything. We had a great crowd in attendance. All who attended appeared to have had a good time and we look forward to next year's event.

Chapter President Col USAF (Ret) Bob Brooks and Mrs. Peggy Brooks.

Chapter VP CPT Glenn West, USA (Fmr) and Mrs. Pam West

Kingdom of the Sun Chapter

LTC Arlo Janssen, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

The Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) Chapter held their February 2nd meeting at the Braised Onion in Ocala, Florida. The Call to Order was conducted by the Chapter President, MAJ Joe Voge, USA (Ret). The program featured Ms. Lauren Deiorio, Executive Director of Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County, as the speaker. The topic of her presentation was Building A Stronger Community ... ONE PASSION AT A TIME. She explained "Community Foundations" to the KOS members and guests attending the February luncheon. Ms. Deiorio indicated there are 28 Community Foundations in Florida. Copies of her briefing slides were available for those attending the luncheon.

Ms. Lauren Deiorio receiving a KOS Challenge coin from President Joe Voge. Picture by Dennis Rose L-R: MAJ Joe Voge, USA, and Ms. Lauren Deiorio

The March 2nd Chapter meeting was held at the Braised Onion. Maj Joe Voge, USA (Ret), opened the Chapter meeting, and COL Nick Navetta, USA (Ret), introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Kathy Byrant, for our luncheon. She is currently the County Commissioner for District 2 of Marion County. She was elected to this position in 2010. Kathy was born and raised in Marion County. During her time as a commissioner, she was instrumental in assisting the creation of distribution centers such as FedEx and Chewy in Marion County. She started her career owning small businesses in Marion County.

Guest speaker, Ms. Kathy Byrant, with COL Nick Navetta, USA Ret, speaking at the KOS Chapter meeting on March 2, 2023. Picture by Dennis Rose. L-R: Ms. Kathy Byrant and COL Nick Navetta.

Find & Join a Chapter

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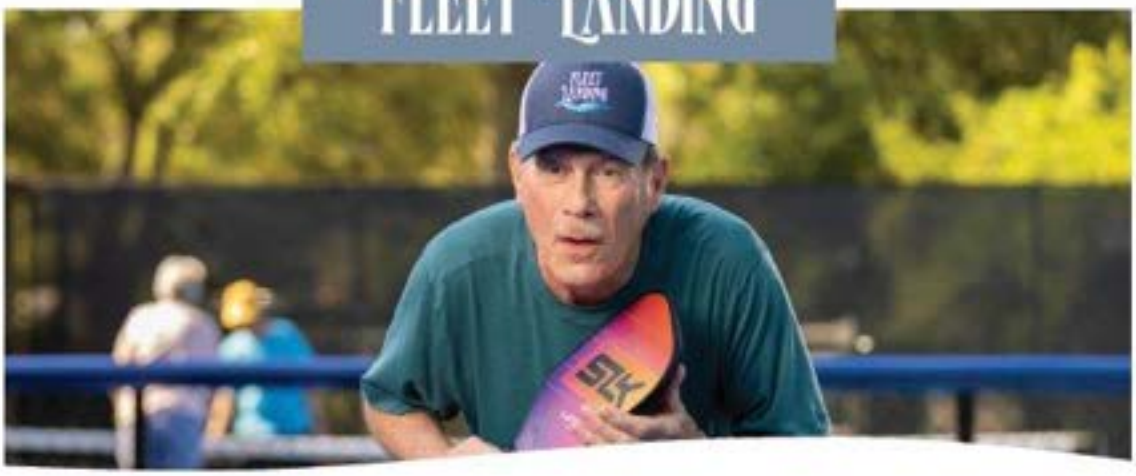

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MILITARY OFFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)
FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 40 Chapters with nearly 5,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA's largest Councils. MOAA has a membership of over 380,000 members in all 50 States.

The FCOC's primary communication vehicles are our bi-monthly publication, *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ* and our Website www.MOAAFL.org Ads run for one year.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* is distributed electronically to all our chapters, MOAA Headquarters in Virginia, and our influential contacts across the state of Florida.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* provides a unique forum for businesses to reach a select segment of the population. The membership is patriotic and professional. We encourage your business to reach out to our members by advertising in *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ.*

In appreciation of Businesses that also support the FCOC Annual Convention with Ads in the Convention Souvenir Program Book within the last year the FCOC offers a discount for the same size Ad shown on the following Order Form.

Thank you!

FCOC

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Submitting Articles and Pictures for *The Communiqué*

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best (Arial 12). You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter.

Pictures should have a .jpg or .png extension. If you are sending pictures from your chapter, please include the chapter name and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers. Please ensure that you have the permission of persons in the photos for publishing.

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Randy Fiebrandt
rfiebs1953@gmail.com

Find & Join a Chapter

The Council Communique' ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

Size of Ad	Per Issue	Annual Placement (6 Issues)
Quarter Page (4" x 3.5")	$75	$300 (Save $150)
Half Page (8" x 3.5") or (4" x 7.5")	$150	$600 (Save $300)
Full Page (9" x 7.5")	$300	$1200 (Save $600)

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Note: Annual is from Jan-Dec. Six issues are published electronically on the 10th of the even months. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be pro-rated for the remainder of the year.

(Ad placement in the printed Annual Convention Program in the spring is handled separately by the Convention Committee: POC's are listed under the Committee Chairs on the last page of the Communique')

Amount: $_____ Make check out to: Florida Council of Chapters and mail with this form to: Treasurer – FCoC, P.O. Box 60603, Fort Myers, FL, 33906.

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Copy is due by the first day of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Please notify the Council Vice-President if you plan to change the ad copy. Address questions to Col Steve Bond at 321-831-7572 or to vpfcoc@gmail.com.

Florida Chapters & Web Sites (if available)

Ancient City Chapter
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Area: Northeast
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Bay County Chapter
Panama City
Area: Northwest

Bradenton Chapter
Bradenton
Area: South West
View Website

Broward County Chapter
Deerfield Beach
Area: Southeast
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Cape Coral Chapter
Cape Coral
Area: South West
View Website

Cape Canaveral Chapter
Patrick AFB
Area: East Central
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Central Florida Chapter
Orlando
Area: East Central
View Website

Charlotte Harbor Chapter
Punta Gorda
Area: South West
View Website

Clearwater Chapter
CLEARWATER
Area: West Central
View Website

Flagler County Chapter
Palm Coast
Area: Northeast
View Website

Florida Gold Coast Chapter
Coral Gables
Area: Southeast

Florida Keys
Islamorada
Area: Southeast
View Website

Gainesville Chapter
Gainesville
Area: Mid Central
View Website

Halifax Area Chapter
Daytona Beach
Area: East Central
View Website

Imperial Polk County Chapter
Lakeland
Area: Mid Central

Indian River Chapter
Vero Beach
Area: East Central
View Website

Kingdom Of The Sun Chapter
Ocala
Area: Mid Central
View Website

Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
Lady Lake
Area: Mid Central
View Website

Lee Coast Chapter, MOAA
Sanibel Island
Area: South West
View Website

Mayport Chapter
Jacksonville
Area: Northeast
View Website

Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.
Sarasota
Area: South West
View Website

Military Officers Association of South West Florida
Naples
Area: South West
View Website

Military Officers Club of Volusia County
Orange City
Area: East Central
View Website

MOAA of Citrus County
Lecanto
Area: Mid Central
View Website

Nassau County
Fernandina Beach
Area: Northeast
View Website

Northeast Florida Chapter
Jacksonville
Area: Northeast
View Website

Northwest Florida Chapter
Fort Walton Beach
Area: Northwest
View Website

Find & Join a Chapter

Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter
Jupiter
Area: Southeast
View Website

Pensacola Chapter
Pensacola
Area: Northwest
View Website

Santa Rosa Chapter
Milton
Area: Northwest

St. Petersburg Area Chapter
St. Petersburg
Area: West Central
View Website

South Central Florida Chapter
Sebring
Area: South West
View Website

South Dade Chapter
Princeton
Area: South East

Sun City Center Chapter
Sun City Center
Area: West Central
View Website

Suncoast Chapter
Port Richey
Area: West Central
View Website

Suwannee River Valley Chapter
Lake City
Area: Northeast
View Website

Tallahassee Chapter
Tallahassee
Area: Northwest
View Website

Tampa Chapter
MacDill AFB
Area: West Central
View Website

Treasure Coast Chapter
Fort Pierce
Area: East Central
View Website

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

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