The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

February 2023

Issue 174

President's Message	1
V P Message	3
12 Month Calendar	4
2023 Leadership Training Forum	5
Personal Affairs	8
Surviving Spouse	10
Legislative Affairs	11
FDVA Update	13
FL Veterans Council	15
Chapter Activities	20-37
FCoC Information, Chapters, Board & Committee Chairs	40-44

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President's Message

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

First, let me say that our entire Florida MOAA cadre were saddened to learn of Colonel Don Panzenhagen's unexpected passing. As usual, Don had called Pensacola Chapter to express his excitement about attending that evening's dinner event earlier on 19 January, but when he did not arrive at the event Chapter President Dean Kirschner called expressing concern. We learned the next day from Northwest President BG Fran Hendricks that Don had passed away. Don's funeral was one week later and Fran reported that Don's sendoff was well-attended, and he was appropriately eulogized and honored. We will miss Don's friendship, his energy and his commitment to service members, veterans and families.

I waited one week after Don's funeral out of respect for that fine gentleman's memory, and his legacy as a committed leader in our Florida MOAA organization, to appoint his replacement. Effective February 2, 2023, I appointed Scott Berry from Northwest Chapter as Northwest Area Vice President. Scott will fill the remainder of Don Panzenhagen's term, and is expected to be relieved in May 2023 at the convention in St Augustine based on election results. Many thanks to Scott for stepping up to serve!

BACK TO NOW & THE FUTURE

The 6-7 January Leadership Training Seminar (LTS) was just over-the-top; largest ever attendance, first-time inclusion of business partners, record-breaking support by MOAA National leaders; and a thorough, honest and detailed review of Florida Chapter Health. Bottomline is no surprise - we have a lot of work to do! Good News: MOAA National is poised to help, and FCoC is working on a plan. The plan will work to re-invigorate those chapters that need help, and to bolster those Chapters that are just maintaining. I will take the plan to the FCoC Board at the May 2023 Convention for their approval. We will execute the plan starting in summer 2023 and plan to have it complete by the Convention in 2024. Vice President Steve Bond will have more about the Retention & Recruiting (R&R) campaign in his remarks.

In anticipation of the annual business meeting at the May FCoC

Continued on next page

Convention is St. Augustine, I have proposed a 2024 budget and drafted proposed changes to our FCoC Bylaws to better reflect our current budget process. The budget and bylaws changes have been distributed to all Chapters for review and comment as required by our FCoC bylaws.

The Ancient City Chapter is locking in final details of the convention, which promises to be a fun and memorable event at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center at the World Golf Village just off I-95 in St Augustine. This is a chance to hear from and meet MOAA's new President and CEO LtGen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret) and his wife Garrety. Garrety is a former Major in the Air Force, and when I met her at the MOAA annual meeting in Kansas City in October last year she told me she was a "Florida Girl" and was looking forward to coming down to our convention in May 2023 in St Augustine. I am told Pirates will be seen at the Convention as well as other historic inhabitants of this oldest continuously inhabited city. Lots to see and lots to do - **do not miss this event** in Northeast Florida 18-21 May 2023! I am asking all Chapters to take out an ad in the 2023 Convention magazine to support this event. VP Steve Bond is our POC for those ad submissions.

To all Chapter Presidents: Remember our spring To-Do Tasks - hopefully everyone submitted for a Harris Communication Award by 1 February, and the deadline for MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grants is 28 February, followed by the deadline for Level Of Excellence Awards by 1 May. Remember, my second priority vector is to take advantage of all that MOAA National has to offer, so please make these a **priority for your Chapter**!

Thanks to all our Florida MOAA leaders and members for your hard work and commitment as you "**continue to serve**" in our communities and support all our service members, veterans and their families. **Well Done!!**

Best Regards,
Pat K.

NOTABLE DATES FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH

February is Black History Month

February 1st – National Freedom Day

February 3rd – Four Chaplains Day

February 4th – USO Day

February 19th – Coast Guard Reserves Birthday

February19th – Iwo Jima Day

March is Women's History Month & Month of the Military Caregiver

March 3rd - Navy Reserve Birthday

March 5th - Seabee Birthday

March 13th - K9 Veterans Day

March 25th – Medal of Honor Day

March 29th - Vietnam Veterans Day

MOAA Take Action

Vice President's Message

COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret)

It was great seeing so many of our chapter leaders at the Leadership Training Seminar (LTS) last month in Orlando. With the LTS now behind us, spring is just around the corner. That means we are in full tilt to plan and prepare for our State-wide support to MOAA's "Advocacy in Action" (AiA) campaign, and our 46th annual Convention in St. Augustine!

The LTS was a resounding success and thank you to our volunteers who made it all possible. We had a great turnout from MOAA National led by Gen Gary North (USAF, Ret), Chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors. For those that participated, I know you went away better prepared to serve our members and engage in your communities. Be sure to read MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen BK Kelly's comments on the forum in this newsletter. The slides presented and pictures from the LTS are posted on our council website at https://www.moaafl.org/LeadershipSeminar.aspx Those are for use and reference by your chapters and include the updates given on Chapter Affairs, MOAA Charities, Legislative Affairs, Surviving Spouses, and our state-wide Membership Campaign.

As those at the LTS heard, we are working with MOAA to encourage non-chapter MOAA members to join a chapter. At the council-level, we are working on an "email blast" to all MOAA Non-Chapter members in Florida to educate them on the important work chapters do at the local level and encourage them to join a chapter. Later this spring and early summer, we encourage Chapters to follow-up that State-wide email with a request to MOAA for a local email to non-chapter MOAA members to participate in a chapter luncheon, dinner, Officers Call, or other event and to join your chapter.

One of our core missions is legislative advocacy. MOAA's "Advocacy in Action" campaign is coming up in April. We have plans to meet with all Florida Congressional Representatives and staffers on Capitol Hill. We will also meet with Congressional Representatives and staffers in their local offices over the summer to convey our support to MOAA's legislative agenda on behalf of the serving military, veterans, and their family members. We need all our members to register on MOAA's Legislative Action Page and *TAKE ACTION* to support the AiA effort with emails, phone calls, and letters. Our legislative team will be providing more information on our legislative push and providing instructions on how chapters and members need to support the effort. If you have not signed up to *TAKE ACTION* on the MOAA Legislative Action Page now is the time; go to https://moaa.quorum.us/ and sign up today!

This year's Convention is shaping up to be a momentous event hosted by the Ancient City Chapter in St. Augustine. It will be at the Renaissance Hotel in the World Golf Village and will include a golf tournament at one of the world-class golf courses there. Mark your calendars for May 19-21. Registration is now open on our website (www.MOAAFL.org). Be sure to register early and we need all our chapters to support the Convention with an ad in the convention program and encourage your members to participate!

MOAA Take Action

Enjoy the Florida Winter—We have a busy spring, and the Convention will soon be here! If you have questions or comments, contact me at vpfcoc@gmail.com.

12 MONTH CALENDAR

- MOAA Community Outreach (former USAA grant program) is open until all funds are depleted
- 01 MAR 23 - MOAA Scholarship application window closes
- 28 FEB 23: MOAA Foundation Grant Request window closes
- 31 MAY 23: AMBA (Mercer) Ad Program Application window closes
- 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
- 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

Quiz of the Month:
Aviation buffs may have read that the last Boeing 747 was delivered last week.

How many total 747s have been produced in Boeing's history?
a) 998 b) 1574 c) 2259 d) 3378

The very first B747 prototype was used for a time to test out some military missions, particularly for aerial refueling for two types of aircraft. What were they?

This same first prototype B747, designated N7470, still exists. Where is it now?

Answers on page 18.

MOAA Take Action

Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training Forum – January 6 – 7, 2023

From MOAA President and CEO - Lt Gen Brian T. (BK) Kelly, USAF Ret

Re: Florida Council Leadership Training Seminar, Orlando, FL, 6-7 January 2023

To: CDR Pat Kluever, USN (Ret)

Pat – Many thanks for orchestrating another well-attended and impactful Florida Council Leadership Training Seminar 6-7 January 2023. I understand this year's seminar attracted representatives from 31 of your 39 chapters and provided an excellent opportunity for seven of our headquarters' team members, plus General North, to connect with and learn from your volunteer leaders, listen to their concerns and ideas, and identify areas for closer collaboration. Special thanks for accommodating representatives from Georgia and a national board member from South Carolina.

The Florida Council of Chapters is enthusiastically supporting our advocacy agenda, emphasizing recruiting and retention, and championing the work of The MOAA Foundation and Scholarship Fund. This is a direct result of your leadership and commitment to our association. Please accept my personal "thank you" for a job exceptionally well done. I'm looking forward to seeing you at our AiA campaign in April and at your 2023 Council Convention in May.

VR, BK

Brian T. Kelly (BK)
Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force (Ret)
President and CEO
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
www.moaa.org

NEVER STOP SERVING.®

A selection of memories from the Leadership Training Forum.
Go to https://www.moaafl.org/LeadershipSeminar.aspx to see them all.
(Note: There are some technical difficulties with the photos for now. Keep checking back if there are not 100 or so photos available).

LTF Welcome Poster. Support our Sponsors!

Gen. Gary North, Chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors addresses the Florida LTS in Orlando, on January 6th, 2023

Cory Titus, MOAA Director of Veteran Benefits and Guard/Reserve Affairs gives an update to leaders in attendance on MOAA Legislative initiatives

Break Time!

MOAA Take Action

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Council President Pat Kluever presents Amanda Centers, Vice President of MOAA Development (MOAA Foundation and Scholarships) and Gen Gary North another $500 check to the MOAA Foundation. In the past 12 months, the Council has given $6,500 to support the MOAA Foundation's charitable work!

Pre-Dinner Reception

Awards Dinner sponsored by MOAA

COL Mike Borders (USA, Ret.) (C), Immediate Past President of the Florida Council receives the MOAA President's Award for his leadership as Council President from Gen North (L) and current Council President Pat Kluever (R) at the LTS Awards Dinner.

MOAA Take Action

Personal Affairs

Col Paul Loschiavo, USMCR (Ret)

Taxes and Paperwork

It's that time of year. 1099s and tax forms start showing up in the mail and on websites. Your tax preparer sends you the "tax planner" and asks you to sign the "engagement letter." You'll get all your paperwork together and get it in. You'll get back either a form that allows the tax preparer to electronically file your taxes or file an extension. At some point, you'll get back an envelope with a copy of the tax form and the source documents that you gave the tax preparer.

So… how long should you keep the paper? Actually, how long should you keep all paper?

Hopefully, you have all monthly bills set up for electronic delivery. If so, the question regarding monthly bills is moot. If not, once you've paid your electric bill, your phone bill, your cell bill, and the payment shows on the next one, you can shred the original bill.

Assuming you're doing e-delivery, bank and credit card statements can be accessed electronically, so you need not save these, too.

What about all the tax papers? Most accountants will tell you to keep these seven years. Some.. will say less.

When you file your taxes, the IRS will either deposit your check or send you a refund fairly quickly. But it's really about a year to eighteen months before they even look at your tax form. (Maybe longer nowadays…) If there's a question or a problem with your taxes, you should hear about it within two years of filing. Pretty much, if they have not questioned a return within three years, they most likely won't. The exception is if they suspect fraud. There's no time limit on that, so if you intentionally tried to defraud the government, you should keep documents *forever*. But, if you are honest, three years is most likely good enough.

As I get ready to have my 2022 taxes done, I keep the files containing my 2021, 2020, and 2019 documents, and shred the 2018 papers.

Very few people are actually audited. My tax preparer says that she's never had a client do complete audit in her career and she's been doing my taxes since the mid-nineties. But… she gets to respond to dozens of *letters of deficiency* every year. These inquiries normally pertain to a single or a few transactions. (Most people *think* they are being audited when the get a deficiency letter.)

Interestingly enough, when a person gets a letter of deficiency from the IRS, the first thing they normally do is connect with the tax preparer. If they need any documentation, they normally get it from the bank. It's actually pretty rare that anyone goes digging through piles of paper to find a

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

receipt.

Nothing good comes from retaining piles of paper. Besides the fact that finding a specific document a couple years later is pretty challenging, more often than not, somebody else ends up disposing of it. And as people get older, the need for help in-the-home increases. The likelihood of an unvetted cleaning person finding a document with an account number on it is undoubtedly much greater than that of an IRS audit. Basically, any piece of paper you *don't* have… cannot disclose an account number to a criminal. *If in doubt, throw it out*. (Really, *shred it*.) If you ever need a document in the future, you can probably get it.

One big exception to shredding is any document showing what you paid for your home and any capital improvements. Maintenance doesn't count, but if you added a garage or pool, you'll likely need the bills to determine your cost basis of the home.

The other big exception is if you run a business. You'll need a ton of paperwork and need to keep it. Just do as your accountant suggests. It will probably entail more *stuff* for longer periods of time.

But if you are retired military, and have another source of income or two that are totally out in the open, your need to keep paper goes down dramatically.

Incidentally, with respect to having your taxes done, you have several choices:
CPA: A Certified Public Account is a highly trained individual who has passed the CPA exam and remains current with CPA Continuing Education. A CPA (and a tax attorney) may represent you in disputes with the IRS.
EA: An Enrolled Agent is also highly trained and passed a rigorous exam, the big difference between a CPA and an EA is that a CPA can certify a *business audit.* An EA cannot. But, an EA may also represent you in disputes with the IRS.
Tax Preparation Company. Companies such as H&R Block and Jackson Hewitt can do your taxes relatively inexpensively. Of course, the education requirement of an H&R Block tax preparer is not too high. Basically, they teach an eight week tax course and then offer jobs to the top performers in the class. Keep in mind that they do a lot of tax forms for a lot of people.
Tax Prep Software. Turbo Tax is offered everywhere and is surprisingly easy to use. It is relatively inexpensive and quite intuitive. There are other versions. I'm sure they are effective, too.
Do it Yourself: It's still legal to do your own taxes and some people do it by hand, but the error rate on individually done tax forms is *huge*. I would bet that when the IRS gets around to looking at DIYs, they look closely. Very closely.

So which should you use? *It depends*. The more complicated your taxes, the more training and experience your tax preparer needs.

If all of your income is visible (government, corporate, bank, investment firm), pretty much any of the tax preparers can do it. As you sources of income get more complicated, you'd be better off going higher on the list. Do you get a K-1 from a private investment? Now it's a little complicated. Do you run a business? Or claim a home office? You should probably consider an EA or CPA.

Personal experience: I've been using an Enrolled Agent for decades. She's extremely competent and I've had only a couple IRS deficiency letters. In both cases, I paid nothing additional. As near as I can tell, the only difference between my EA and a CPA is she's slightly less expensive than a

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

typical CPA. But if you have multiple sources of income, and own lots of commercial real estate or businesses, you should probably be on a first name basis with a CPA.

I also use Turbo Tax. I do the taxes for the grandkids, who have college accounts that generate taxable income, and occasionally do the taxes for some friends who have very simple tax situations. Turbo Tax is very simple to use. It asks you questions and you answer. It can download much of your data so you need not spend much time doing data entry. I also use it to print the extension that I usually get. (My EA says that I'm her only client who does his own extension…) If you can order something from Amazon, you can use Turbo Tax.

The most important thing you can own with respect to taxes is… a *shredder*. All it takes is one document with your SSN on it falling into criminal hands and you'll wish you had spent forty or fifty bucks on a shredder. Your local UPS Store will do "bulk" shredding too for a few dollars a pound. It's worth it if you have bags of documents to shred. I'd bet most people do…

Surviving Spouse Corner

Patricia Green, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Welcome to 2023! As of this month, there is no longer a SBP/DIC offset. You also should have received your COLA (cost of living adjustment) to your military and Social Security benefits.

As you receive important tax documents, immediately check them for accuracy. Corrections can take a few months so get started as soon as you can. Keep all these documents in a folder in preparation for taxes.

2023 is a year that may have an impact on retirees and surviving spouses. Look in your November 22 MOAA Magazine on page 87. Listed there are rule changes for SBP and the remarriage age for DIC benefits.

Another big change this year is that an Open Season for SBP began and ends on January 1, 2024. For the retiree who paid into the annuity for a deceased spouse, the annuity can be reopened for the current spouse by paying back premiums and resuming annuity payments. A special webpage has been constructed for details, news and information. Go to www.dfas.mil/sbpopenseason23. These changes may not apply to you, but pass the information on.

The MOAA Florida Council did a great job in leadership training at the Rosen Center in Orlando. I was so pleased that 5 SS Liaisons were in attendance. I understand that for some of you it is a great distance to come, or the timing might not be right. Consider asking someone representing your chapter to pick up handouts for you or take notes. Lots of information was introduced. The slide show will be attached to the www.moaafl.org website.

Did you make a New Year's Resolution? How is that working for you? I dropped resolutions long ago…no real successes. Instead, I plan to focus on an improvement that I can make. This year, I

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

intend to read more books. When I have a spare hour, I read. Already this year I have completed one book. If I keep my focus on this goal, I should finish more books this year than last. I'll let you know my progress.

Think about what might bring you joy or feeling of accomplishment and focus on that this year. Whether it's cleaning drawers, managing paper work, or learning a new skill or language, focus on it when you find spare time. Let me know how you're doing.

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!

Congressional Report Aims to Cut Deficit, But Would Cost Retirees Thousands

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provides a 10-year overview of deficit reduction measures once every two years, before the start of a new congressional session. As with past years, the report includes ways to reduce both mandatory and discretionary funding, as well as ways to increase federal revenue ... but it does not consider any long-term implications of these potential savings, nor the impact cuts would have on affected communities or on significant challenges facing the nation, such as military recruitment and retention.

The recent report from the CBO includes several proposals which could weaken or eliminate earned benefits for nearly all members of the uniformed services and veteran communities. These proposals, if enacted, could cost servicemembers past and present – and their families, survivors, and caregivers – thousands of dollars every year.

- Retirees and survivors would face TRICARE For Life enrollment fees and increased medical costs, and receive smaller cost-of-living increases for their retirement pay and survivor benefits.
- Veterans would see significant reductions in available VA care and reduced benefit payments.
- Servicemembers and their families would suffer from a cap on pay raises and cuts to a critical housing benefit.

MOAA has identified 13 options from the CBO report which could inflict such harm; we will continue to fight for our constituents to ensure proposals like these are not enacted, or even considered. We need to let Congress know where beneficiaries stand on these issues. Watch The MOAA Newsletter and MOAA's Advocacy News page for ongoing updates throughout the year for an

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

opportunity to tell Congress what you think about the CBO's ideas to increase out-of-pocket costs for Tricare For Life beneficiaries, especially in the face of recent cuts to the TRICARE retail pharmacy network.

See a summary of those thirteen items and a link to the rather lengthy full CBO Report here

MOAA - Congressional Report Aims to Cut Deficit, But May Cost Retirees Thousands

A Strong Start Is Critical to the Success of the Major Richard Star Act

Over two-thirds of the 117th Congress supported the bipartisan and bicameral Major Richard Star Act during the 117th Congress. The act would provide concurrent receipt of DoD-earned retirement pay for years of service and VA disability compensation for over 50,300 combat-injured veterans. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of disability pay received – an unjust offset designed to save the government money. The bill achieved 336 co-sponsors in the House and 67 in the Senate, yet failed to receive a vote in either chamber.

The list of original House co-sponsors in the 118th Congress topped 160 at the end of January. The next milestone is to reach 290 co-sponsors before any other piece of legislation, making the bill first on the House Consensus Calendar, which opens March 1 with the new rules for the 118th Congress. Entry on the House Consensus Calendar can drive early negotiations for the bill, as the House must also grapple with rules for budgetary control.

The Military Coalition recently published a letter urging the members of the 118th Congress to sign onto the Major Richard Star Act. The House and Senate versions of the bill are expected to be officially reintroduced in mid-February, so there is still time to get your elected officials signed on. This linked TMC paper provides a persuasive position to share with your legislators
[TMC Support Combat-Injured Veterans by Passing the Major Richard Star Act] .

Check here to see if they supported the legislation last session: H.R. 1282 | S. 344 Use that info to tailor the MOAA suggested message here:
Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress

As the legislative slate is wiped clean for the 118th Congress, *grassroots support* becomes even more vital to achieving MOAA's advocacy objectives.

Here is a look at MOAA's priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. Our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with The Military Coalition and other stakeholder groups, and leverage those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

Here are links to detailed info for each category

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
Military Housing
Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
Service Families
Survivors
Guard and Reserve

Visit the MOAA Legislative Action Center

Take action on the current 5 active advocacy campaigns here:

MOAA | Legislative Action Center (quorum.us).

Advocacy-in-Action Returns to Capitol Hill This April

MOAA recently announced that AiA will return to teams from each state meeting with their elected representatives in DC offices. They are in the preliminary stages of preparing for this effort since it was cancelled back in 2020.

Our Council Legislative Chair, Bob Bienvenue will be the team lead in support of other Council members who will be requesting meetings with our 28 representatives and 2 senators.

Chapters will have an important role in advance of these meetings and as the legislative process moves forward on MOAA's targeted issues. STAND-BY for more information in the coming weeks. A **Special FCoC Legislative Alert** will provide the details as they become available.

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

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

From Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Executive Director James S. "Hammer" Hartsell

Operating as the premier point of entry for Florida's 1.5 million Veterans, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates a network of nine State Veterans' Homes and provides statewide

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

outreach to connect Veterans with their earned services, benefits and support. It's a team effort, and I'm grateful for the support our department has at all levels.

With the beginning of the new year, Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) are highlighting a number of policies and initiatives providing critical support to our state's veterans, their families and survivors. FDVA is a nearly 1,500-member constitutionally chartered State Veterans' Affairs department with a $171 million annual budget 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.

The agency's veterans' claims examiners play a major role in the direct infusion of more than $23.9 billion annually for veterans into Florida's economy through federal compensation, education and pension benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' medical services and military retired pay. To read more about 2022 successes, click here.

The 2023 Florida Legislative Session begins on March 7. In preparation for the 60-day session, the legislature is meeting in a series of Interim Committee Weeks, discussing key legislation which may impact our state's Veterans. My senior staff and I have spent the past several weeks testifying before committees responsible for Veterans issues in Florida. You can follow the week-to-week discussions by visiting our website at www.FloridaVets.org and clicking on "Veteran Legislation."

My senior leadership team and I met Jan.16 with more than one dozen state senators and representatives during the *Florida Veterans Foundation*'s annual breakfast honoring legislators who have honorably worn the uniform of our Armed Services. As part of the breakfast, we also welcomed members of the *Florida Veterans Council*, as they prepared to conduct their quarterly meeting of major Veteran Service Organizations while at the Capitol.

2023 is a time to honor our outstanding Florida Veterans. Nominations from the public are open for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2023. You'll find details on the nomination process at the bottom of the newsletter. Deadline for submissions is May 31.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has also announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. John D. Haas as Adjutant General of Florida. Major General Haas is the Assistant Adjutant General – Army and the Commander of the Florida Army National Guard. Prior to assuming his position, he was the Director of Strategic Plans, Policies, and Programs for the Florida National Guard. General Haas has completed three combat tours and held multiple company-level commands. Haas will become the Adjutant General of Florida upon the retirement later this year of Maj. Gen. James O. Eifert.

Florida Veterans Council Update

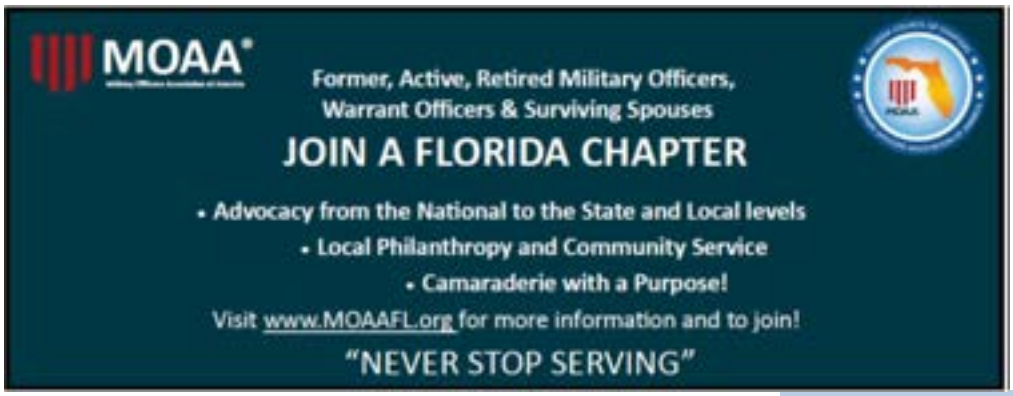
MAJ Lorraine Holland, USA (Ret), FCoC Committee Chair
Florida Veterans Council

The 2023 Florida Legislative Session begins on March 7th and runs until May 5th. In preparation for the 60-day session, the legislature is meeting in a series of Interim Committee Weeks, discussing key legislation which may impact our state's Veterans. The FDVA senior staff and MG (ret) Hartsell have spent the past several weeks testifying before committees responsible for Veterans issues in Florida. You can follow the week-to-week discussions by visiting their website at www.FloridaVets.org and clicking on "Veteran Legislation."

As the MOAA member of the Florida Veteran's and FDVA Council, I was honored that our council met with the senior leadership team up in Tallahassee on Jan.16th. While at the Capitol, our council members were able to network with more than one dozen state senators and representatives during the *Florida Veterans Foundation*'s annual breakfast honoring legislators who have honorably worn the uniform of our Armed Services.

Our *Florida Veterans Council* conducted our quarterly meeting of major Veteran Service Organizations while at the Capitol. We are looking forward to returning in April once Veteran legislation is identified and we get onboard to determine our collective priorities. There was great interest from the state senators and representatives to learn what our veteran legislative goals are for 2023. From a MOAA perspective, I left information for sponsors of our Florida state MOAA initiatives:

- License Portability for Emergency Medical Services Professionals
- Interstate Compact for Occupational Therapy Professionals and Audiology Speech Language Pathology professionals.
- Teacher License Portability
- Revisit last year's Psychology Professionals Interjurisdictional Compact
- Child Care Facility and Provider Licensure



MOAA Take Action

GEHA
GEHA
Proudly serving those who've served us all
At GEHA, we value everything veterans like you have done for our country. In fact, your service inspires us every single day. That's why everything we do is just for military retirees, federal employees and your families. Thank you.
DENTAL BENEFITS
FOR MILITARY RETIREES
/gehahealth
/company/gehahealth
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FEDVIP
GEHA.

Answers:

There have been 1574 B747s produced over the past 55 years.

In 1972, the Air Force used the first B747 prototype in refueling operations with theSR-71 Blackbirds and B-52, and "various" other fighter aircraft.

The very first airframe, designated N7470, was the test bed prototype. It was eventually delivered to the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field in Seattle in 1995, and after an extensive refurbishment in 2014, it sits there for all to see.

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.

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Florida Council of Chapters "Chapter News"

Central Florida Chapter

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

December 13th Chapter Luncheon: Veteran Court Program Guest Speaker

Judge Alicia L. Latimore, Ninth Judicial Circuit, and Lisa Vargas presented a talk on the Orange County Veterans Treatment Court Program on Tuesday. Judge Latimore is a native Floridian, born and raised in Miami, Dade County, Florida.

As of January 1, 2021, she serves as the Administrative Judge for the Ninth Circuit Problem Solving Court division where she presides over a total of nine treatment courts for Orange and Osceola counties including Early Childhood Court which she helped to implement in her circuit in 2015.

Veterans returning from combat may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or may have difficulty reintegrating into society. Due to alienation and lack of support, some veterans fall into drug and alcohol abuse or develop mental health issues. Veterans Courts have been established to address these issues.

Across the United States, successful completion of Veterans Court has helped decrease the recidivism rates of its participants through the proper diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues and as a result of the supportive roles mentors play in the process.

Cape Canaveral Chapter

Marilyn M. Sanford, MOAACC Media Relations

MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation Selected as Space Coast Superstar Winner

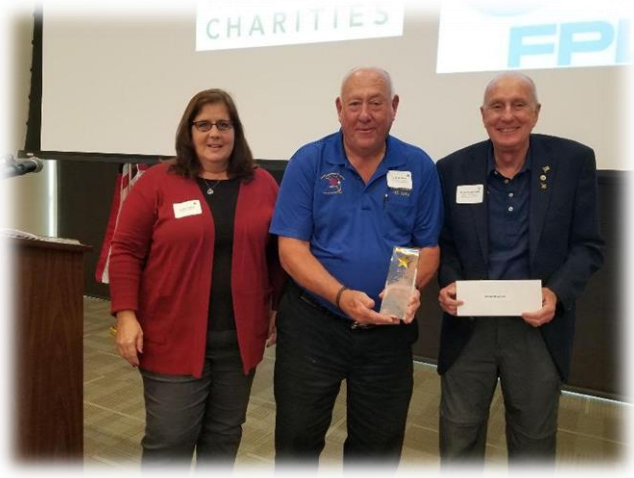
On December 2, MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) was recognized by 211 Brevard, and its many corporate sponsors, as the number one "Superstar" among three veteran-related organization candidates, at the 8th annual "Stars of the Space Coast"

MOAA Take Action

Continued on next page

Ceremony. More than 150 attended. Greg Pallone of Channel 13 was the MC. The GDF was awarded trophy and $500.

The Veteran Services Award category this year was sponsored by BRE/Imperial Plaza and their officer, Carla Casey, read off a list of what the GDF accomplished in 2022. This year GDF grants totaling more than $110,000 were presented to support active duty military units, especially junior enlisted families; JROTC and other Cadet organizations (over 38,000); veterans and their families facing major housing and utilities hardships; and local organizations which support hundreds of veterans and their families through programs such as Space Coast Honor Flight, Wreaths Across America, National Veterans Homeless Support, Brevard USO, Veterans Treatment Court and others.



GDF President Donn Weaver (center) and VP Mike Gautreaux (right) accept the award from Ms. Carla Casey (left)

The Superstar Award winners in various categories were:

- **Good Deeds Foundation of MOAACC** for the CBRE/Imperial Plaza Superstar Award for veterans' services.
- **Brevard County Public Libraries** for the Publix Super Markets Charities All-Star Award for children's services.
- **Housing for Homeless** for the Florida Power & Light Community Star Award for homelessness prevention.
- **Brevard CARES Mobile Response Team** for the Space Coast Credit Union Supernova Award for mental health support.

Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion Commissions 4 New Army 2nd LTs

On Friday, December 16, the Florida Institute of Technology Army ROTC Panther Battalion held their winter ceremony to commission four new Army Second Lieutenants. The Commissioning Ceremony was held outdoors at the Florida Tech Panthereum with fellow cadets, friends, and families in attendance. The new Lieutenants took the commissioning oath of office and pinned on their new "Gold Bars", the rank insignia of Second Lieutenants. The new officers also met the requirements to graduate from Florida Tech at the December Commencement. At the Commissioning Ceremony, the new officers heard messages from the Interim President of Florida Tech, Robert King, J.D. and Guest Speaker, Brigadier General John M. Dreska Jr, the Commander of the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in Los Angeles, CA.

The new Florida Tech Graduates and Army Second Lieutenants are:

Continued on next page

- Jared Blanco, a graduate of Merritt Island High School, who earned his B.S. degree at Florida Tech in Software Engineering. He was the cadet battalion commander and earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Gold as a cadet. Jared will initially serve in the National Guard as a Cyber Officer.
- Nathan Johnson, who graduated from High School in Fairfax, VA, and earned his B.S. degree at Florida Tech in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics. He also completed Air Assault School as a cadet. Nathan was commissioned as an Engineer Officer and will initially serve in the Army Reserves in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- Julia Seibold, who attended High School in North Carolina, and earned a B.S. degree in Ocean Engineering from Florida Tech where she was also on the Rowing Team. Julia was commissioned as an active duty Engineer Officer and is awaiting her unit assignment.
- Jonathan Shimer who graduated from Cocoa Beach High School and earned a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering at Florida Tech, where he was also the President of the Rugby Club. Jonathan was commissioned as a National Guard Ordnance Officer with assignment in Quincy, FL.

(L-R) 2LT Jonathan Shimer, 2LT Nathan Johnson, 2LT Jared Blanco, and 2LT Julia Seibold

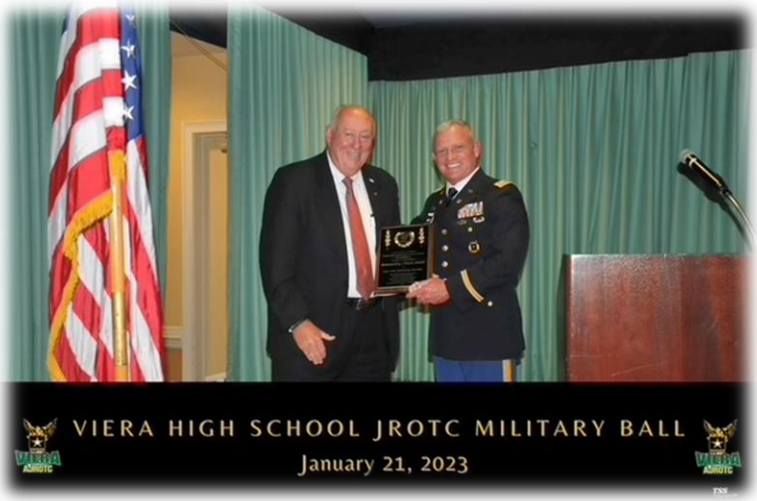
The new Lieutenants were also congratulated by LTC Jimmy Crook, Florida Tech Professor of Military Science. The Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC) was also on hand to present the new Lieutenants with “Gold Bar” commissioning sets and membership in the organization. Colonel Steve Bond, US Army-Retired and Past President of MOAACC, congratulated the new officers on their achievement wished them the best of luck as they begin their journey as officers in the United States Army.

MOAACC 2022 Outstanding Citizen Award – Tim Thomas

MOAACC member LTC Tim Thomas, USA Ret., received the prestigious 2022 MOAACC Outstanding Citizen Award at the Viera JROTC Army Ball, held at the Indian River Colony Club, on January 21, 2023.The award was presented on behalf of the MOAACC Board and Immediate Past President Ken Lowe, by former MOAACC President Donn Weaver. The event was attended by 150 JROTC cadets, their dates and family members.

Continued on next page

Donn Weaver read the surprise citation for the award, noting that Thomas had an amazing year which included creating "JROTC to the Rescue", a county-wide program to provide relief supplies to Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole victims in southwest Florida and northern Brevard County. He also helped raise $400,000 for charity, while dancing for the Space Coast at the annual Brevard County Sheriff's Office gala fundraiser held in June 2022. In addition to storm relief and fundraising, Thomas is the senior JROTC Instructor at Viera High School and an elected member of the Melbourne City Council.



Donn Weaver (Left) presents award to Tim Thomas (Right)

Sun City Center Chapter

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

The Sun City Center Chapter of MOAA continues to grow and strengthen it leadership capabilities. The Chapter sent a large contingent of its officers and directors to the last leadership conference hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters. The chapter's well trained and oriented leaders are a large factor in our ability to maintain our outstanding LOE award each year.

L-R: Director Jean Bennett Stratis, Surviving Spouse Liaison; Chapter President COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret); Chapter Secretary Harriett Jordan; Chapter Treasurer Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret); Director Lt Col Joseph Muhlberger, USAF (Ret)

Tampa Chapter

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret) and Carol Zieres, COL USA (Ret)

MOAA TAMPA BOARD HOLDS RETREAT AT MY WARRIORS PLACE

The members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter Board of Directors and Committee leads held a retreat and strategic planning meeting at My Warriors Place, a retreat center in Ruskin, Florida, January 13-15, 2023. It was a fun and productive time away from our usual luncheon meetings providing us a time for fellowship, good food, a beautiful location to relax while we identified and defined our chapter goals and vision for 2023.

Ms. Kelly Kowall, Founder and CEO of My Warriors Place, is the Gold Star Mother of SPC Corey J. Kowall, 82nd Airborne Division who was KIA in Afghanistan on 20 Sept 2009. In honor of her son's memory, Kelly purchased the 5 acres on the Little Manatee River where they used to go kayaking together and dedicated the property in his memory. This "little piece of heaven" is used as a safe haven for healing, individual and group therapy, as well as providing recreational space with overnight accommodations for military, veterans and first responders and their families. She provided a brief history about My Warriors Place and held a Q & A session for us.

Clarke Inghram, a USAF Vietnam Veteran, and local dog trainer provided a session on training dogs and service dogs to our group. He has work with and trained over ten thousand dogs over the last 50 years. Repetition and consistency are what makes dog training successful. He also works with training service and companion dogs for veterans in need.

It was an amazing time to discuss and complete our Chapter's plans for future grant writing and award input for the MOAA Communications and Level of Excellence Awards. The casual, relaxed and gracious waterfront setting honoring warriors who didn't make it home not only inspired us but created an environment of tremendous productivity, hashing out of ideas and plans and most importantly deepening our trust and understanding of each other.

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Continued on next page

We're going again next year. Just hoping the weather is milder so we can go for a pontoon boat ride on the Little Manatee River.

For more information on My Warriors Place go to www.mywarriorsplace.org .

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Citrus County Chapter

By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), Communications Director

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter president (left) COL Pete Tan, USA (Ret), receives the 2021 national MOAA Five Star Levels of Excellence (LOE) award from the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters president, CDR Patrick Kluever, USN (Ret), during the chapter's annual dinner on Dec. 1, 2022, at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club. The LOE Five Star award is the highest national MOAA award a chapter may receive based upon its operations, communications, membership services and community engagement.

The MOAA Citrus County Chapter Installation Dinner event recognized past chapter president, COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), with a U.S. Army mementos box. National MOAA also recognized the chapter and COL Bodenheim, the chapter's communications director, with two LOE Five Star awards for the chapter's website and newsletters.

Pictured here from left to right are: MOAA Citrus County Chapter president COL Pete Tan, USA (Ret), previous past chapter president CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret), COL Bodenheim, and MOAA Florida Council of Chapters president CDR Patrick Kluever, USN (Ret).

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Continued on next page

MOAA Citrus County Chapter members attending the chapter's annual installation dinner.

Mr. John Murphy Jr. is pictured here answering questions from MOAA chapter members and public attendees during the January speaker event.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter president (left), COL Pete Tan, USA (Ret), presents a certificate of appreciation to Mr. John Murphy Jr., the Citrus County Chronicle Digital Strategy & Director of Weekly Newspaper Operations. Mr. Murphy gave a presentation on the challenges of operating a home town newspaper during the MOAA chapter's January 10, 2023 MOAA sponsored speaker event held at the American Legion Post 155.

Kingdom of the Sun Chapter

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

The Kingdom of the Sun Chapter held their first meeting in 2023 at the Braised Onion in Ocala, Florida, on January 5, 2023. The Call to Order was conducted by the Chapter President, MAJ Joe Voge, USA Ret. Our Installation Officer was Lt Col Wayne Brown, USAF Ret, for the ceremony held on January 5, 2023. He is a member of our KOS Chapter, and he conducted the installation of our elected KOS Officers and our newly elected KOS Directors. The following Officers were elected to serve in 2023: President-MAJ Joseph Voge (Army), 1st Vice President-COL Craig Ham (Army), 2nd Vice President-COL Nick Navetta (Army), Secretary-Col James Alsobrook (Air Force), and Treasurer-Mrs Linda Byrd (SSM). The following KOS members were elected and have agreed to serve as KOS Directors with terms ending December 31, 2024: COL Bill Murry (Army), Lt Col Sharon Murry (USAF), and COL Robert Schlegel (Army).

The elected KOS Officers received their oath of office from Lt Col Wayne Brown, USAF.

L-R: MAJ Joe Voge, USA, COL Craig Ham, USA, COL Nick Navetta, USA, Linda Byrd, SSM, LTC Carolyn Smith, USAR, COL Robert Schlegel, USA, COL William "Bill" Murry, USA, Lt Col Sharon Murry, USAF, and Lt Col Wayne Brown, USAF.

Wesley Wilcox, Marion County Election Supervisor, speaking at the KOS Chapter meeting on January 5, 2023.

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Cape Coral Chapter

Carol Peppers, Newsletter Editor

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Indian River Chapter

Lt Col Carroll Oates, 1st vice president Indian River Chapter MOAA

Status from Indian River Chapter FL 36 MOAA on our largest project yet.

At IRC – MOAA Chapter we have made special efforts to meet all of our goals as a 5 Star Level of Excellence Chapter. We have become proficient in increasing our visibility by continuing to complete all of our standard missions each year. This includes JROTC involvements, Leading the IRC Veteran's Council's Veterans in the Classroom Programs, Veterans Helping Veterans and Veterans Outreach, Gold Star Mothers and Veteran Organizations causes as well as Scholarships, Mentoring, community involvement with the cities and county commissions, staffing our officers as board members on the IRC Veteran Council, leading Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other Veteran – Community joint ventures. Offering our Veteran Speaker Programs to organizations and other community entities. We are everywhere and people know us.

Two years ago our MOAA Chapter took on a new and somewhat different challenge and we accomplished it with no impact to our standard activities. IRC-MOAA took on the lead to erect a WW1 Doughboy monument on our Veterans Memorial Sanctuary Island. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful and meaningful site unlike no others. The Island was created by the dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway and a returned WW1 Officer Lt. Alec McWilliam, native of Vero Beach thought it would make an excellent veterans venue. So he pursued the city and county officials and they complied. He was right and this beautiful site developed as a sanctuary. Since 1963 several simple but meaningful symbols of service have been tastefully added such as a stone and plaque to each military service, recognition of POWs, Korean War, Vietnam, the more recent "Desert Wars", fallen local veterans and local organizations. But it was missing two very important events: World Wars One and Two.

So in 2020 IRC- MOAA accepted the lead and appointed two of its senior officers USMC (Ret) Colonel Mike Discipio and USAF (Ret) Colonel Carlos Halcomb to give recognition to WW1. They accomplished this goal in a short 8 months, raising interest, money and erecting the WW1 Doughboy whom we reverently refer to as LT Alec.

It was dedicated on Veterans Day 2021 but MOAA kept right on rolling with a much larger and expensive World War Two Tribute. We formed a four person Tribute team to lead the charge. IRC-MOAA Officers Army Colonel (Ret) Tony Young, a native of Vero Beach and former mayor and Army (Ret) Lt. Colonel Carroll Oates, then Chapter President as well as USMC Sgt. John Michael Matthews, Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee and member of the Veterans Council and the civilian daughter of a WWll Veteran, Barbara Ruddy, took on this new challenge.

Known as the WWll Tribute Team they gave serious thought to what was needed and instead of a statue or monument the Tribute will be a much needed permanent reviewing stand with many references to the War and The Greatest Generation. After all, Indian River County had a very intimate relationship to that war. The Vero Beach Naval Air Station was located only a mile or so from the Island. The Navy and Marine Corps trained pilots, mostly fighter bombers, there and over a hundred pilots lost their lives during that training. Their motto / Logo was the Buccaneer which the

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Continued on next page

Team has taken on as its symbol and IRC-MOAA has named its monthly newsletter “The Buccaneer”.

Progress is being made and we are almost 2/3rds of the way there with the needed funding. Most preparation and engineering work has been accomplished and our desired objective is to have the dedication on or near Veteran’s Day 2023. In fact IRC-MOAA is holding a fundraiser event on February 18th to help with the cost. We have also partnered with the IRC Cultural Council who, as a 501(c)3, is taking care of the financial aspects and assisting with countywide promotions.

The Team has created several promotional videos, made many presentations and worked with other veteran organizations in the county to conduct fundraisers. The family of one WWll veteran was so inspired they donated $100,000 in his name and we are on a roll towards our goal.

The parade reviewing stand will become the centerpiece for the island. Besides providing an event stage it will contain various WWll symbols such as the WWll Victory Medal, Campaign Ribbons, a learning kiosk and much more. And our Military Officers Association will literally be cemented as the leader for the recognition to our veterans and our county’s patriotic involvement to their service and sacrifice. As officers we take the lead and accomplish our missions always Still Serving.

To inquire about this project and our MOAA Chapter please call or E mail: Col. Anthony Young 772-321-2692 / awyoung76@att.net or LTC Carroll Oates 954-494-8742 / carrollonmiramar@aol.com.

Donations can be made out to: Cultural Council of Indian River County – WWll Tribute and mailed to Cultural Council – IRC 1216 21st St., suite 1, vero beach, Fl. 32960 772-770-4857.

Sarasota Chapter

COL Len Friedlander, USAF (Ret)

The 2023 Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) Officers and Board members were installed at the chapter's Military Gala on December 11, 2022. (l-r) COL Jon Gordon, USA (Ret) President, COL Jim Ainslie, USA (Ret) 1st Vice President, Mrs. Christa Friedlander, Treasurer, Col Craig Hullinger, USMC (Ret) Director, Mrs. Susan Warmington, Director, Col Len Friedlander, USAF (Ret) Director, COL Troy Scott, USA (Ret) Immediate Past President, & Maj Pete Dering, USAF (Ret) Secretary.

MOAS Makes Donation to Project Warrior Resolution

At the 40th Military Gala Sunday night at Michael's on East, the Military Officer's Association of Sarasota (MOAS), through their charitable organization the Sarasota Military Officers' Foundation (SMOF), presented a $5,000 donation to Operation Warrior Resolution (OWR).

The mission of OWR is to transform veterans to health and wellness, providing innovative, holistic treatments for mental health to veterans and their family members, alleviating PTSD, anxiety, and other mental health related issues. The organization offers a variety of services to include Equine Therapy, Combat Conscious Yoga, Couples therapy, and nutrition counseling.

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Continued on next page

COL(R) Jon Gordon, MOAS President, Jacqueline Woish, OWR Executive Assistant and Kendra Simpkins, CEO of OWR.

COL Jonathan C. Gordon
Awarded the Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS)
Martin Hertz Lifetime Community Service Award 2022

COL Jonathan Gordon joined the Military Officer's Association of Sarasota (MOAS) in 1998, shortly after his retirement from the US Army. At that time our Chapter was known as the Retired Officer's Club (ROC)(TROA). The name changed in 2000, and Jon served on the committee that recommended MOAS as the new name.

Jon volunteered to serve as the ROC Treasurer for the year 1999 and has been involved in the Board in some fashion ever since. He became the 1st VP in 2002 and served his first term as President in 2003 when Sarasota hosted its first Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) convention at the Hyatt – also serving as the emcee for the Gala. In 2008 he was asked to become the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Secretary and has served in that position for the past 14 years. Jon was elected to his second term as President of MOAS in 2013 and the chapter again hosted a FCOC State Convention. Jon served as the MOAS Board's legal advisor and awards chairman for several years and was nominated and elected for his third term as President in 2022.

In addition to his work with MOAS, Jon has been active in many community arenas. He served on the Turtle Rock HOA Board and as its President. He has served as Treasurer of his Office Condo organization and is currently serving as President. He is a former Vestry member and Treasurer of St. Boniface Episcopal Church. John is also a current member of the church's stewardship commission and the Friends of Music Committee plus a member of the church bell choir. In addition to all those activities he serves as the church chancellor or legal advisor.

COL Gordon holds Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Florida. He was commissioned through ROTC in 1966 and entered active duty as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1969.

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Continued on next page

COL Gordon's service includes tours at Ft Knox, KY, Republic of Vietnam, Ft Harrison, IN, The Judge Advocate General's Center in Charlottesville, VA, Ft Riley, KS, Ft Huachuca, AZ and Seoul, Korea. His final assignment was in Washington, DC, where he served as the Senior Judge, US Army Court of Criminal Appeals.
He is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. His awards include three Legions of Merit, a Bronze Star medal, five meritorious Service Medals, a Joint Service Commendation Medal and two Army Commendation Medals.

Jon is married to the former Mary Stedman of Arlington, VA and they have three adult children and four grandchildren.

COL Jon Gordon (l) receives the MOAS Martin Hertz Lifetime Community Service Award 2022 from MOAS Immediate Past President COL Troy C. Scott at the 2022 MOAS Military Gala.

Clearwater Chapter

Robert J (Jim) Souders, Maj USAF Ret

Clearwater Chapter Installs 2023 Officers

At the January 25th Chapter luncheon 2023 Chapter Officers were elected and sworn in by LTC Ret Roger Trout.

(L-R) Pat Hughes, MAJ Jim Souders, LTC Bob Behm, LTC Steve Hodges, COL Dave Apt, Jane Belson, LT Gary Williams, BG Jeff Doll, COL Rob Risberg (Absent), CDR Alan Davidson(Absent), Installation Officer LTC Roger Trout

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Continued on next page

Fascinating January Luncheon Presentation By Former UK Para Rescue Team Member

Members and guests were treated to a fascinating presentation about the violence and unrest in Northern Ireland which still goes on today (although largely unreported in the news). Les Cooper, whose resume reads like a Tom Clancy novel, has a multi-faceted career one can only marvel at. Les served in the British military parachute rescue service from 1968 to 1981 in various trouble spots around the world, including Northern Ireland; Dhofar; Cyprus; Belize; Hong Kong and Germany. After leaving the military, Les received his Air Transport Pilots License and flew transport/troop missions into hot spots like Kosovo and as a Civil Aviation Authority examiner for private pilots as well as a multi-engine instrument rated and aerobatic instructor and finally retiring from British Airways Connect.

Clearwater Chapter President BG Ret Jeff Doll (R) presents Certificate of Appreciation to Les Cooper (L) after his presentation

Les has been a skydiver for fifty years and member of the team holding the British record for the largest group, aged 60 or over, to form a free fall formation. The one and only time Les didn't pack his own chute, it failed to open, he was badly injured and hospitalized for three months, but returned to skydiving after his recovery.

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Chapter Kicks Off Annual Golf Tournament Supporting Pinellas County High School JROTC Programs

LTC USA Ret Steve Hodges gives update on 2023 Golf tournament to support Pinellas County High School JROTC programs. This golf tournament provides scholarship funds for outstanding members of JROTC (all services) attending Pinellas County High Schools.

The tournament is April 22nd, 2023, at the Bardmoor Golf & Tennis Club in Largo, Fl. Cost is $85, a 4-person scramble, 1:30 shotgun start. A BBQ meal is included with lots of prizes. For more information, contact Steve Hodges at 727-709-2612 or shodges41@gmail.com.

Treasure Coast Chapter

COL Tom O'Bra and LTC Bobbie Williams

Treasure Coast MOAA Patriots JROTC Scholarship Ball

The Treasure Coast Chapter of MOAA has provided a yearly scholarship to a deserving JROTC graduating senior in each of eight high schools in the Martin and St. Lucie counties since 1976.

This year the chapter discussed ways and ideas to increase the amount scholarship recipients are awarded. In October of 2022, the 1st Vice President, Colonel Tom O'Bra, formulated an idea and proposed a concept to hold a fundraising military type ball.

Under the direction of Col Tom O'Bra (Chapter 1st Vice President), and LTC Bobbie Williams (Chapter President), a committee was formed to plan the event. The committee consisted of several residents from the community where Col O'Bra lives. From October 2022 through most of January 2023, the committee and chapter members sold tickets and planned the event. The goal was to sell 100 tickets and that goal was achieved.

The Patriots JROTC Scholarship Ball was held on January 28, 2023 at the Santa Lucia River Club Ballroom in the Ballantrae community of Port St Lucie, Florida. This was a black tie, formal affair with a reception, dinner, guest speaker, military honors, and traditions, music and dancing. Our guests arrived in Tuxedos, Ball Gowns, Military Mess Dress, and Class A's uniforms.

The entire ballroom was decorated in a patriotic theme of red, white, and blue! The patriotic theme center of gravity of each table was the center pieces of miniature service flags, the American flag and the POW/MIA flag. Orga Gilmore of Designs by Orga, led our efforts to design and decorate the ballroom in a simple and classic manner. Laudatory remarks and accolades were given throughout the evening regarding the decorations.

This patriotism was on full display during the playing of the National Anthem and God Bless America by Elisa Calderon on the violin. Furthermore, the military honors portion of program, and the playing of the Armed Forces Service Medley and Proud to be an American by Lee Greenwood, almost brought some in attendance to tears!

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Continued on next page

Eleven cadets and eight instructors from the eight JROTC program were invited to attend the event. The color guard was provided by Jensen Beach High School JROTC and music was performed by the Showcase Band. Col Mark Colbert, Senior Aerospace Instructor from Jensen Beach High School was the guest speaker. Eight of the cadets attending were potential recipients of this year's scholarship award. All 11 cadets were awarded our Treasure Coast MOAA coin. There were 120 attendees in total including donors, cadets, instructors and their guests.

The event was an overwhelming success with not only the 120 attendees, but also more than five dozen personal, corporate and sponsor donations. More than $13,000 was raised for the Chapter Scholarship fund. Plans are already in motion for next year's event!

And, last, but not least ….

William "Bill" Hodges, a member of the Sun City Center Chapter, hosts Veterans' Radio Corner podcasts on all sorts of veterans issues. He recently hosted a podcast with MOAA's new National President LTG Brian Kelly, USAF Retired, to discuss his plans for MOAA in both the short and the long term. As many might know there has been a large turn over in board members and new policies and procedures are sure to follow. It is an exciting time for MOAA with their successes in Congress, along with other military groups, for example the PACT Act, and they are encouraged to do even more. To listen to the broadcast simply click on the link below.

https://www.buzzsprout.com/952243/11961074

For other Veteran's Corner Radio podcasts, go to https://www.veteranscornerradio.com/

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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.*

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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)

Size of Ad: _____ No. of Issues:_____ Annual: _____

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.

Business Name _____
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Submit PDF or JPEG file of ad(s) or ad update via email with a scanned copy of the completed order form to vpfcoc@gmail.com

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
St. Augustine
Area: Northeast
View Website

Bay County Chapter
Panama City
Area: Northwest

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

Cape Coral Chapter
Cape Coral
Area: South West
View Website

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

Charlotte Harbor Chapter
Punta Gorda
Area: South West
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Clearwater Chapter
CLEARWATER
Area: West Central
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Flagler County Chapter
Palm Coast
Area: Northeast
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Coral Gables
Area: Southeast

Florida Keys
Islamorada
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Gainesville
Area: Mid Central
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Daytona Beach
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Vero Beach
Area: East Central
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Ocala
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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
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Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.
Sarasota
Area: South West
View Website

Military Officers Association of South West Florida
Naples
Area: South West
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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
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Jacksonville
Area: Northeast
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Northwest Florida Chapter
Fort Walton Beach
Area: Northwest
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Find & Join a Chapter

Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter
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Area: Southeast
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Pensacola
Area: Northwest
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Milton
Area: Northwest

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St. Petersburg
Area: West Central
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Sebring
Area: South West
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South Dade Chapter
Princeton
Area: South East

Sun City Center Chapter
Sun City Center
Area: West Central
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Port Richey
Area: West Central
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Tallahassee
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MacDill AFB
Area: West Central
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Fort Pierce
Area: East Central
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Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

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To reach any of the Officers or Committee Chairs via email, please go to our Web site (Contact Us) or CLICK HERE

The Communiqué
is on the web:
http://moaafl.org/

The ***Council Communiqué*** is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC), Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April, June, August, October, and December. MOAA, it's Councils and Chapters are non-partisan organizations. The Communiqué is intended for wide distribution via e-mail within the FCOC including Chapter Leaders and all Chapter Members in Florida. A current issue of ***The Council Communiqué*** can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: http://www.moaafl.org/, drop down menu Events/News.

Opinions expressed by contributers are their own and may not express the positions of FCOC or the MOAA.