



# The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America

MOAA  
Outstanding  
Newsletter



2007

2006

2005

2003

2001

1998

1997

Runner-up  
Outstanding  
Newsletter

2004

2002

2000

1999

Issue Number 91  
August 2008



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

COL TROY SCOTT, USAR (RET)

The summer is here, many of our chapters have darkened their doors until September, and most of our snowbirds have gone back North. Now is the time when those of us who stay in Florida year around can enjoy driving on uncrowded streets, getting into a favorite restaurant any time and just going about our business normally. The Senate plans on meeting in late July to act on the 2009 Defense Authorization Bill. We did get the Medicare bill passed and hopefully, by the time this gets to you, the Senate will have acted positively on the FY 2009 Defense

Authorization Bill.

I'd like to encourage members to subscribe to MOAA's e-newsletters which provide timely information about legislative actions, and alert us when we should be contacting our representatives about our items of interest. Not only do you get pertinent info, but you could win something, too. Once every quarter MOAA will randomly pull a name from all subscribers to [win valuable merchandise](#) – computers, iPods, and more. Just go to [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) and put your name on the list.

I wonder what kind of benefit Florida derives from our Chapters? We do participate in state legislative activities, but I also know that individual chapters are very active in providing scholarships to high school students. I'd like to ask each chapter to send me an email ([entscott@comcast.net](mailto:entscott@comcast.net)) and let me know the scope of their contributions to scholarships. We don't have a statewide visibility of how much we donate toward college scholarships, and it would be a great recruiting tool to be able to say that our chapters contribute many thousands of dollars to future leaders in Florida. I'll share the responses with you.

A reminder for everyone, Georgia is having their annual convention in Columbus, GA on 16-17 October 2008. A flyer has been inserted into this issue. I know that many of us Army guys have some memories about Columbus and Ft. Benning, so if you get a chance let's join them. Elke and I will be there. Also, you may already now block out the date on your calendar for the 2009 FCOC convention, which will take place at the Sirata Beach Resort in St Pete Beach on 5 thru 7 June 2009.

Best Wishes - - Troy & Elke

### IMPORTANT DATES/UPCOMING EVENTS - -

- 19-20SEP2008 - Fall Board Meeting, Hyatt, Sarasota.
- 24DEC2008 - Proposed Resolutions and/Bylaw Changes due to Bylaw/Resolution Committee Chairman.
- 01JAN2009 - Roster Information (Blue Book, Section I, Page 8) (*Up-date as needed*).
- 23-24JAN2009 - Winter President's & Board of Directors Meetings, Sirata, St Pete Beach
- 01FEB2009 - List of Deceased Member and Spouses due to Council Secretary.
- 01MAR2009 - Council Dues due to Council Treasurer.
- 05-07JUN2009 - Convention 2009, Sirata, St Pete Beach.

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

COL JERE MOORE, USA (RET)

**THE NATIONAL AGENDA**

It is time to remember the old adage: Vote early and vote often.

Of course, you cannot actually cast more than one ballot but you can make multiple impressions on the Member of Congress or want-to-be Members of Congress from your district, and now is the time to do it. Elected officials, even when unopposed for re-election, are more attentive to voters in their districts in the months before election.

That time is now because a primary is scheduled August 26 and the general election on November 4. Early voting is October 20 to November 2. A key phrase in this is "voters in their districts." By contacting the officials and other candidates, you achieve three things: first, telling the vote-seeker what issues he or she should be supporting, second, finding out which of your and MOAA's priorities (they should be the same) the vote-seeker supports, and finally, establishing a relationship that will be useful when you want to seek support of Members of Congress later on a pending issue.

Step one is to make appointments with the vote-seekers for a small group of MOAA members to visit him or her.

The second step is to become thoroughly prepared on two, three, or four MOAA priorities that also are important to you. Preparation should involve going to the MOAA webpage ([www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)), for information gathered by knowledgeable people on the scene and involved in the sausage-making process, make that the legislative process.

Click on Legislative Update to check for issues that need attention now. For example, one pending is to urge Democrat Barack Obama to participate in a town hall debate sponsored by a consortium including MOAA to be held August 11 near Ft. Hood, TX. It would be broadcast by CBS. Republican John McCain has already accepted. As usual with MOAA requests for membership actions, a draft e-mail to Obama is included. All members have to do is fill in the blanks although a revision or rewrite of the message is possible.

Click next on Legislative Action in the upper left corner for lists of issues, their background, and MOAA positions, the starting place for you to pick no more than four issues for you to present to the vote-seeker. If you present many issues, the important ones get lost. Decide who is going to do the talking on each issue and let that member go forward uninterrupted. At the end of the meeting, thank the vote-seeker and give a 30-second recap of your issues.

To meet the goal of leaving something written with the person lobbied, click on MOAA Goals and Progress, then Selected Legislative Goals for 2008 and print that page.

MOAA staff in Washington works hard to keep themselves and members informed, but voters from the Congress Member's district get a lot more attention.

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

Florida Legislature is generous with military veterans -- In recent years, at the urging of state veterans organizations, the Florida Legislature has provided older disabled veterans and their surviving spouses with big tax

breaks on their home and improved the opportunity for disabled veterans to get state government business. The Legislature also has authorized wounded veterans get their tuition to universities and community college waived and has passed many other measures benefitting veterans and their families.

In addition, the Legislature has allocated money to build six nursing homes and one assisted-living facility for veterans too ill to stay at home, the sixth nursing home to be built this year in St. Johns County.

Legislators have approved most proposals from the State Veterans Planning Group (SVPG) that is composed of veterans organizations including the Florida Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America. Even in a difficult financial time like this year, the Legislature has maintained financing for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs services and the nursing homes, and approved most other FDVA requests.

A major victory for the SVPG and MOAA was approval by the Legislature and the voters of Florida in 2004 of a constitutional amendment to give Florida veterans 65 years and older with service-connected disabilities of 10 to 90 percent a reduction in their homestead property tax equal to the percent of disability. In other words, a veteran with 50 percent disability has his property taxes cut in half. Younger veterans with 10 percent or more service-connected disability already had a \$5,000 exemption. Permanently and totally disabled veterans had a full exemption from paying property taxes on their homesteads. In 2005, MOAA joined the SVPG in persuading the Legislature to authorize the surviving spouse of the older disabled veteran—usually a widow—to continue to receive the property tax exemption after the veteran's death.

A top priority of the veterans group and MOAA for several years was assistance for businesses operated by disabled veterans to gain contracts for state government purchases. After discussion of a number plans, the Legislature approved a bill this year to require that the contracts go to the disabled veterans' businesses when all else is equal. It also provides for the veterans to receive training on how to bid for state contracts.. The University of West Florida will also provide training to the disabled veterans on how to operate businesses.

The major bill this year established the Florida Veterans Foundation Inc., to raise funds for FDVA to provide assistance to veterans and their families not now funded by the Legislature, such as assistance for homeless veterans. Rear Adm. LeRoy Collins Jr., U.S. Navy Ret. and FDVA executive director, appointed the nine member board to operate the foundation with Lt. Gen. Robert Milligan, USMC Ret. and former comptroller of Florida, as chairman. Two members also are members of MOAA: Col. Sharon Richie-Melvan, Ph.D., U.S. Army Ret., president of the Citrus County Chapter, and Maj. John Haynes, USMC Ret. member of the Tallahassee chapter.

The tuition waiver applies to veterans who received the Purple Heart or a medal of equal or higher precedence.

Veterans preference in state, county and city employment now can be used an unlimited number of times. Formerly, it could be used only once.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

The Legislature provided a grant to the Agency for Workforce Administration to help veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan to find jobs.

The big drive by veterans in most states is to get an exemption from state income tax for veterans but Florida gives that to everybody.

Florida veterans have not always been successful in the Legislature. An attempt for several years to get a law requiring schools to be closed on Veterans Day ran afoul of local school boards who didn't like to have the state telling them what to do.

### THE UN-COMFORT ZONE

ROBERT WILSON, JR.

#### WHAT'S PUSHING YOUR BUTTONS?



What motivates you? That's the question I'd like to ask in this inaugural column on motivation. Are you motivated by fame, fortune or fear. Or is it something deeper that fans the flames inside of you. Perhaps you are like Jeanne Louise Calment whose burning desire enabled her to do something that no other human being has done before.

A feat so spectacular that it generated headlines around the globe, got her a role in a motion picture, and landed her in the Guinness Book of World Records. A record that has yet to be beaten.

Jeanne Louise, however, did not initially motivate herself. It was someone else who drew the line in the sand. But, it became a line she was determined to cross.

In motivation we talk about getting outside of one's comfort zone. It is only when we are uncomfortable that we begin to get motivated. Usually to get back into our comfort zone as quickly as possible.

Born into the family of a middle-class store owner, Calment was firmly entrenched in her comfort zone. At age 21 she married a wealthy store owner and lived a life of leisure. She pursued her hobbies of tennis, the opera, and sampling France's famous wines. Over the years she met Impressionist painter Van Gogh; watched the erection of the Eiffel Tower; and attended the funeral of Hunchback of Notre Dame, author, Victor Hugo.

Twenty years after her husband passed away, she had reached a stage in life where she had pretty much achieved everything that she was going to achieve. Then along came a lawyer. The lawyer made Jeanne Louise a proposition. She accepted it. He thought he was simply making a smart business deal. Inadvertently he gave her a goal. It took her 30 years to achieve it, but achieve it she did.

Are you willing to keep your goals alive for 30 years? At what point do you give up? Thomas Edison never gave up, instead he said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Winston Churchill during the bleakest hours of World War II kept an entire country motivated with this die-hard conviction: "We shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches... in the fields and in the streets... we shall never surrender."

Many of us give up too soon because we set limits on our goals. Achieving a goal begins with determination. Then it's just a matter of our giving them attention and energy.

When Jeanne Louise was 92 years old, attorney François Raffray, age 47, offered to pay her \$500 per month (a fortune in 1967) for the rest of her life, if she would leave her house to him in her will. According to the actuarial tables it was a great deal. Here was an heir-less woman who had survived her husband, children, and grandchildren. A woman who was just biding her time with nothing to live for. That is until Raffray came along and offered up the "sucker-bet" that she would soon die. It was motivation enough for Jeanne, who was determined to beat the lawyer. Thirty years later, Raffray became the "sucker" when he passed away first at age 77.

When asked about this by the press, Calment simply said, "In life, one sometimes make bad deals." Having met her goal, Jeanne passed away five months later. But on her way to this end, she achieved something else: at 122 years old, she became the oldest person to have ever lived.

In future articles we'll examine further the ways in which motivation works. How to motivate ourselves, our employees, customers, friends, loved ones and children. I would like to get your feedback on which of these areas of motivation are of most interest to you. Please email me with your suggestions.

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Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit [www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com](http://www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com).

\*\*\*\*\* Publishing Information \*\*\*\*\*

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### 2008 GMOAA CONVENTION

The 2008 Georgia MOAA Convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Columbus, 1500 Bradley Lake Boulevard, Columbus, Georgia 31904 on 16-18 October 2008, and a Convention Registration Form is included in this issue (see Page 4) for the convenience of anyone who wants to attend. The room rate is \$119.00 per day for 1 King or 2 Queen Beds - - provided that the room is booked by 18 September (The rate will be available until that date or until the block of rooms are sold, whichever comes first). You may book your room bay calling 1-706-660-1000 - - or you can go to the Columbus Chapter Web Site ([www.cvcmoaa.org](http://www.cvcmoaa.org)) and "click" on "Book a Room" to do the deed.

Word has it that our Florida Council of Chapters President Troy Scott and his better half, Erica, will be in attendance so that Troy can relive the glory of his "early Army days" - - when he was young, supple, and in shape (and probably knew how to get to Phoenix City and back without alerting anyone in authority). Who knows?

Oh yes, the aforementioned web site also has the convention schedule and Golf Tournament Application.

**GEORGIA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (GMOAA)  
CONVENTION 2008 - - REGISTRATION FORM**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_ SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENT OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME(S) AS DESIRED ON BADGE(S) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL REQUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

	COST PER PERSON	NUMBER/TOTAL
<b>EVENTS PACKAGE (Includes Registration Plus Events 1 thru 5 if received prior to or on 1 October 2008)</b> - - - - -	<b>\$148.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>EVENTS PACKAGE (Includes Registration Plus Events 1 thru 5 if registration received after 1 October 2008)</b> - - - - -	<b>\$158.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>REGISTRATION (Must be registered to attend any event.)</b> - - - - -	<b>\$25.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>1. ICE BREAKER SOCIAL</b> - - - - -	<b>\$22.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>2. BREAKFAST &amp; MEMORIAL SERVICE</b> - - - - -	<b>\$22.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>3. BANQUET &amp; BALL Meal Choice: Seared Salmon _____ Jack Daniels Ribeye _____</b> - - - - -	<b>\$42.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>4. BREAKFAST Saturday 18 Oct</b> - - - - -	<b>\$22.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>5. LUNCHEON Saturday 18 Oct</b> - - - - -	<b>\$25.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>FRIDAY SPECIAL EVENTS (All lunches are on your own).</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>NUMBER/TOTAL</b>
<b>6. GOLF</b> - - - - -	<b>\$40.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>6a. Sponsorship of an Active Duty soldier for \$60.00</b> - - - - -	<b>\$60.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>7. TOUR (Infantry and Naval Museums, Travel, Admission. Lunch is dutch treat at hotel.)</b> - - - - -	<b>\$20.00</b>	____ / \$ _____
<b>9. SHOPPING SPREE (DEPART POV)</b> - - - - -	None	____ /
		<b>GRAND TOTAL - \$ _____</b>

**DEADLINE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2008  
 MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GEORGIA MOAA CONVENTION 2008  
 P.O. BOX 6613  
 COLUMBUS, GA 31917-6613**

**REMEMBER: CALL FOR YOUR RESERVATIONS (706) 660-1000  
 ASK FOR GEORGIA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS SPECIAL RATE  
 CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [www.cvcmoaa.org](http://www.cvcmoaa.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

MILITARY MATTERS IN REVIEW

LTCOL FRED EDWARDS, USMC (RET)
LET'S PUT THE AIR FORCE IN PERSPECTIVE

July 18, 2008 -- First, the media battered us with the problems that surfaced when Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates forced Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley to resign (see my previous columns at http://www.milmat.net/archive2008.htm).

Next the press peppered us with more than we really wanted to know about the tanker selection process. Then came a piece by R. Jeffrey Smith in the July 18 Washington Post titled "Terrorism Funds May Let Brass Fly in Style." That article describes "comfort capsules" being installed in certain Air Force transport aircraft for use by senior general officers. One wonders if the media expects top leaders to operate from fold-down nylon jump seats alongside troops in the belly of a C-130.

Sometimes we forget that senior military leaders come to the table with two and three score years of hands-on experience and enough graduate-level schooling to qualify for tenure in many a university. So before we are tempted to believe that the Air Force is riddled with incompetent leadership, let's put all of this into perspective.

Lt. Gen. Michael M. Dunn, president and CEO of the Air Force Association, laid it out in a note on July 11. He wrote that the other services have had their own bad press, and checked off, without identifying the service: "Tailhook, Haditha, the cancelled A-12 program, cancelled Comanche, Abu Ghraib, nuclear sub running into a mountain in the Pacific, sub surfacing under a Japanese yacht, rapes or torture in Iraq, rapes in Okinawa, sexual assault by the Command Sergeant Major, Pat Tillman, etc., etc." Then he focused on five points of vital importance to the Air Force:

First, addressing the advanced age of the Air Force fleet, he reported that some airplanes "have literally broken in half in flight." He advised that, "Some airplanes today are being flown by the grandchildren of those who flew them over 50 years ago," and to keep the average age of such aircraft from going higher, the Air Force needs to buy about 150 aircraft per year. Yet for fiscal year 2009, the Defense Department requested only 93, and 52 of them were unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Doing the numbers, he concluded that, at the present rate, it would take 140 years to replace every airplane in today's fleet.

Second, he countered the accusation by Defense Secretary Gates that the Air Force was too busy planning for the next war to carry out its responsibilities for the present war. Again going to the numbers, he tabulated the Air Force's contribution to the troop surge: air sorties up 85 percent, air strikes up 400 percent, a 2,000 percent increase in ordnance dropped, and perhaps air power counted for as much as 90 percent of the terrorists killed. And when it's time to bring the troops home from this war, who will do it? The United States Air Force. But who will stay behind? The United States Air Force -- to bring the Iraqi air force on line.

Third, Dunn rebutted the allegation that the Air Force was

biased against UAVs by saying that the Air Force adopted and modified the Predator after the Army refused to field it. The Air Force then added anti-icing capability to it for service over Bosnia, and modified it to carry Hellfire missiles. He added "Every Chief of Staff in the last 10 years has sought increased numbers of UAVs -- and it was the AF which fielded both the Global Hawk and the Reaper." He produced numbers to show that the Air Force has deployed more UAVs to the area of responsibility than the Army.

Fourth is the F-22 issue. Although it can be as complicated to an outsider as the tanker procurement situation, here are three of the points he made.

1. All four of the Joint Chiefs of Staff non-concurred in a DoD position that short-changed the possibility of conventional wars, thus excluding a need for the F-22.

2. Compared to costs of the F-35, the F-22 is a "bargain" because of its advanced capabilities and downstream production costs.

3. The theater commander has requested the F-22, but Secretary Gates has refused the request, "reportedly for fear of scaring Iran, but more likely because the value of the F-22 would become very obvious."

Fifth is the nuclear issue. Dunn admits that the overflight of the United States with six nuclear weapons was an Air Force responsibility, but adds that the Air Force took disciplinary measures. He says that the shipment of nuclear triggers to Taiwan -- although the report is still highly classified -- appears to be the responsibility of the Defense Logistics Agency.

I thank General Dunn for putting the Air Force into perspective. Because he is retired, I don't expect him to be fired for leveling with the American people. In closing, we might consider paraphrasing one of Sun Tzu's maxims by replacing "the sovereign" with "the media" as follows: "He whose generals are able and not interfered with by the media will be victorious."

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Fred Edwards is a journalist and a military columnist. To see his bio and archived columns, visit http://www.milmat.net

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Fred is also on the MOAA Board of Directors, and is a Past President of the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA.

FCOC VIP INFORMATION

No space in this issue for this information. Please refer to the June 2008 Issue or the FCOC Website for this information. The only change from the June Issue is that Jere Moore is now the Legislative Chairman (See Page 2 for his current input.).

CHAPTER/CLUB HAPPENINGS

◆ LAKE AREA CHAPTER raised more than \$40K for the families of wounded warriors during 2007-08 - - all going to Tampa Chapter's Operation Helping Hand. They also awarded two (2) \$500 scholarships to graduating JROTC Seniors - - outstanding!

◆ CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER will celebrate their 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary with a Dinner-Dance on Friday, 12 September at IRCC's Colony Hall. Cost is \$30 per person. Call Frank or Mary at 321-784-8934 for more info/reservations.

◆ FLAGLER COUNTY CHAPTER will dedicate a Tree Of Remembrance at Hero Park in Palm Coast on POW/MIA Recognition Day - - 19 September. The ceremony will start at 1000, and is memory of all POW's/MIA's from all wars.

◆ NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER

has completed the editing of their Cook Book - - much to Larry Sharpe's relief. It is at the publisher, and should be ready for distribution before the end of the year - - like for use as Christmas/Hanukkah presents?

◆ NORTHWEST FLORIDA MOA CHAPTER had MOAA Director of Council & Chapter Affairs Col Lee Lange, USMC (Ret) present MOAA's new Leadership Award to Chapter Member Chuck Arpke in recognition of his lifetime of outstanding service. Chuck was also awarded the Presidential Certificate, signed by VADM Norb Ryan, for among other accomplishments, his work in transitioning their newsletter from the stone tablets of Genesis to the electronic age. Marie Wagner was also awarded the Presidential Certificate for her untiring role as the chapter's Florence Nightingale by

ensuring that members who are seriously ill or have lost a loved one understand that they are in our prayers and thoughts - - all as a manner of "giving back."

◆ FROM A CHAPTER CHAPLAIN - - I recently read a remark in the Lakeland ledger made by a graduating high school student: "We shall not be forgotten."

While we may wish for more than 15 minutes of fame, note these words spoken by Pericles, the ruler during the Golden Age of Ancient Athens as he was giving a speech in 398 B.C.: 'Our nation, this most powerful, wealthy, and dominant people on the face of the planet Earth, shall shine on for Millennia to come.'

Most of us cannot even remember our great-grandfathers; but, thankfully, our Creator remembers us forever!

The Council Communiqué is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April, June, August, October, and December with a special convention issue published in March. A current issue of the Council Communiqué can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: <http://www.moaaf.org/>. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of the FCOC or the MOAA.



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FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MAJ Marion L. "Mick" Cotten, USMC (Ret'd), Editor
2072 Alameda Drive • Deltona, FL 32738-4874

Quotable Quotes: A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else. Len Wein

Inside This Issue - -

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