



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

2nd Runner-
up N'letter

2008

2009

Issue No. 102
June 2010



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

CAPT DON FREEZE, USN (RET)

It is a great honor to have been elected President of the Florida Council of Chapters. Sherry and I look forward to serving the next two years and to meeting as many of you as possible!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank 2010 Convention Chairs Jim & Dottie Conner and the Calusa Chapter for hosting the 2010 Convention May 21 to 23 at the Crowne Plaza in Fort Myers. You missed a great convention if you did not attend. Be sure to sign up for the 2011 Convention at Sea hosted by the Cape Canaveral Chapter. 2011 Convention Chair Larry Jackson reports over 40 cabins have already been booked.

MOAA is much more than a volunteer job to me and many of you as where else can you meet heroes from every decade from 1930 to currently serving active duty, guard and reserve and their families? The parades and speeches this past Memorial Day weekend were annual reminders that it is our troops, past, present and future that keep us free.

MOAA is one of the few organizations that is growing with 378,000 members nationwide up from 371,000 last year. However most of the 416 chapters nationwide and 41 chapters in Florida are not growing. In fact Florida Chapter membership is at 8,250 down from 12,000 in 2000.

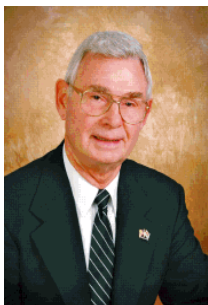
To reverse this decline in chapter membership MOAA and the Florida Council have several new initiatives that were explained by MOAA's Lee Lange, Council and Chapters Department Head, at the Convention. **Lee's full report has been posted at: www.MOAAFL.org.** The biggest initiative is the July issue of Military Officer Magazine will have a cover wrapper inviting all MOAA members who are not chapter members to join a chapter for free for the first year. Considering there are over 45,000 MOAA members in Florida that is a lot of money as MOAA will pay \$15 to the chapters to cover the dues of each new member that joins.

In addition MOAA has suggested that chapters and the councils appoint both a Membership and TOPS (The Officer Placement System) Chair to emphasize the need to recruit. I am pleased to announce that Allen De Graw of the Tallahassee Chapter and Mike McHugh of the Mayport Chair have already volunteered to fill the Florida Council Membership and TOPS Chairs and that many of Florida's 41 chapters are filling those positions as well.

MOAA is also hosting the SE Area Presidents' Symposium September 16 to 18 in Jacksonville, FL. MOAA is inviting the President, 1st Vice President, Membership and TOPS Chairs from all chapters and councils in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee as well the 6 Area Vice Presidents from Florida to attend. The focus of the entire three day Symposium will be recruiting and retention.

You can see that MOAA and the Council are working hard to recruit new members but we need your help to be successful because MOAA members are the best recruiters. So in addition to putting up the flag this weekend put on your MOAA flag lapel pin as I am wearing to church this morning. Over the years I have recruited over 10 people because they asked me what the flag next to the American Flag is. I say MOAA and many have said, I was an officer, can I join?

Don



Legislative Comments

CAPT Bill Knehans, USN (Ret)
Chairman, Legislative Affairs

In November we will again be electing, or reelecting, our Representatives, and electing one Senator. As responsible voters it behooves each of us, regardless of party affiliation, to be as informed as possible about the positions and voting records of the candidates on the ballot. For challengers we will have to rely on the media, campaign materials, and personal contact with the candidates. In the case of incumbents MOAA provides valuable resources to supplement those sources of information. MOAA has 33 House bills and 18 Senate bills of special interest listed on the web site.

To view the House and Senate bills, and your Senators or Representative's position on the bills, go to the MOAA web site (moaa.org) and select the LEGISLATIVE ACTION tab, then select Contact Congress where you can select either of the Senators or your Representative. When you get to the legislator's page click on "Bills" to see which of our special interest bills he or she is cosponsoring. By clicking on the names of the bills on this list an abstract of the bill is available. There is also an icon by each bill to send a MOAA prepared message to the legislator requesting cosponsorship of the bill.

Another useful tool to monitor how your legislators vote on major issues is MegaVote. With a subscription to this free service you will get an email every Tuesday that the Congress is in session telling you how your legislators voted the previous week. By selecting the bill names you can get expanded information about the bills and how each representative in a given state voted. To subscribe to MegaVote, go to the MOAA web site and under the LEGISLATIVE ACTION tab look in ISSUES AND UPDATES for "Action Alerts" and click on it. At the bottom of the page is a link to subscribe to MegaVote.

These are but a couple of ways, among many, that will help you keep up with how your Senators and Representative are doing their jobs even if they don't make the evening news.

The House passed H.R. 4213 on 28 May, just before adjourning for an eight day vacation. This bill will delay the 21% reduction in physician reimbursement until 2012 and will boost the reimbursement 2.2% the rest of this year and 1% next year. The Senate adjourned, to recon-

vene on 7 June, without taking action on the bill. This means that the cuts will take effect on 1 June when the current extension expires. By using a management tool Medicare can and will delay claims for two weeks to give the Senate time to act. It is expected that this issue will eventually be resolved, but if the Senate does not act promptly legislation requiring retroactive payments remains a possibility.

H.R. 4213 is a multipurpose bill that begins the process of concurrent receipt for servicemembers that were retired for medical reasons before they were eligible for 20 year retirement (Chapter 61 retirees). This was one of our Storming the Hill priority issues. In FY2011 members with disabilities of 90% or 100% will receive concurrent pay and in 2012 those who are 70% or 80% disabled will be included. This will give Congress two years to come up with funds to include the remaining Chapter 61 retirees.



Retired Marine General: "Military Oath of Office Never Dies"

Military Matters in Review
LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret)
Past President, Florida Council

June 4, 2010 -- At a dinner for some 300 participants from the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) on May 23 in Fort Myers, Fla., retired Marine General Richard I. "Butch" Neal challenged Americans to pursue integrity, judgment and courage. General Neal, chairman of the board of MOAA, said that the qualities spring from the military oath that begins with the words, "I solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States," he said.

Prowling to and fro in front of the first row of dinner tables, Neal said he chucked a generic presentation that a speechwriter had prepared for him, and "I wrote my own, during most of today." He added that he created the new speech because he was disturbed about what is happening in our country. He said that too many Americans are busy pointing their fingers at others when they should take responsibility for their own actions. He didn't have to give the audience examples because recent media stories immediately pop into mind. Consider the following:

- ◆ Officials from a major financial firm explain what happened that affected the economy, but they point fingers this way and that, implying, "please don't hold me responsible."

(Continued on Page 5 --)

WE NEED A FEW GOOD MEN....

Mrs. Violet M. Smith
Auxiliary Liaison

Actually we are looking for approximately 57 Male Surviving Spouses in Florida, who are eligible to become MOAA members.

Demographics have been provided showing approximately 57 Male Surviving Spouses in Florida...so far only one has surfaced.

We know they are out there and we would really like to welcome them into the MOAA family.

At every opportunity I have had, I have been encouraging the MOAA Chapter Presidents and Members of MOAA to seek out these individuals. They can become a viable part of the local chapters, just as the spouses and surviving females spouses have become.

Please look around your community and attempt to locate these male surviving spouses. More and more female MOAA Officers are dying and we know there will be more. We want to be able to reach out to their survivors and bring them in to be an active part of the MOAA family.

We now have 27 Auxiliary Liaisons in Florida, thanks to the Chapter Presidents who are selecting a spouse or a surviving spouse to fill that position in their chapters. At the recent convention in Ft. Myers, I was able to speak with many of the Chapter Presidents and have some promises from them to make their selections for Auxiliary Liaison to represent their chapters.

Just send me the name, address, telephone number

and e-mail address and name of the Chapter. I will do the rest, I will get in touch with the person selected and take care of all that is necessary.

I want to thank all the Chapter Presidents and Area Vice Presidents who have helped me in my endeavors. I look forward to hearing from more Chapter Presidents with names of their selections for Auxiliary Liaison. Let us try to get an Auxiliary Liaison in each MOAA chapter.

Spouses and surviving spouses, I would really like to hear from you. Tell me what you are doing within your chapters. Are you reaching out and net working with other groups in the military and civilian communities?

You can call me at 727-595-5543 or e-mail at alexgrammie@tampabay.rr.com.

It was nice to meet with many of you at the Convention. We all had a good time.

'THE SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MOAA. THE HEART BEHIND ONE POWERFUL VOICE'

Florida Veterans' Affairs

LtCol Steve Murray, USAF (Ret)
Florida Legislative Affairs Chairman

Governor Crist Signs Veterans Bills on Memorial Day - -

~Hosts roundtable with Florida National Guardsmen and women~

PANAMA CITY (May 31, 2010) – Recognizing the tremendous contributions and significance of the men and women in the American Armed Forces, Governor Charlie Crist today hosted a roundtable with Florida National

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The 2010 MOAA/FCOC Convention Wrap-up!

Jim & Dottie Conner
Convention Co-Chairs



2010 Convention Attendees:

We wanted to contact each one of you one last time to tell you how glad we were to see you all at the convention. We didn't have as much time as we would have liked to sit down and talk with each of you, but we will be seeing you at chapter events now that Jim is your State Vice President and we hope to have more time to connect with you then.

Your support has meant so much to us in the running of this convention. Each one of you who came made it a success just by being there and we hope you enjoyed it. Those chapters who took out an ad were a great help toward defraying the costs. Since we are a small chapter we were nervous about being able to put it on at the least possible cost to you and yet be able to make a contribution to the Council and our hard-working chapter, but thanks to your participation we have succeeded.

We have been reading the convention surveys and all your many positive comments are so good to see, especially as the letdown of finishing such a big project sets in. We have been running on adrenaline for days and are very tired now, but your good comments about the things you liked really perked us up and made us feel good, and we're passing them on to our chapter members.

Speaking of surveys – most of you deposited yours in the baskets for us and we already have them, but for the few of you who didn't get to turn yours in, we'll attach the forms to this email and you can mail them to our address below or scan back into the computer and email them to us.

Thanks Again,

Jim and Dottie Conner; 5103 Calusa Court; Cape Coral, FL 33904

Florida Veterans' Affairs (*Cont'd from Page 3*) - - the roundtable, the Governor visited the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2185 where he signed three bills memorializing military veterans on highways, bridges and roads throughout the state, providing discounts to veterans at state parks, and addressing organizations misrepresenting legitimate veteran status.

"The brave men and women of our Armed Forces, whose selfless and patriotic service allows us to enjoy the liberties we know as Americans, deserve our respect not just on Memorial Day, but throughout the year," said Governor Crist. "I am honored to pay tribute to our veterans through this legislation which recognizes their heroic legacy."

During today's roundtable discussion, Governor Crist highlighted the contributions of the Florida National Guard in response to the Deepwater Horizon Incident in the Gulf of Mexico. He praised their readiness to protect Florida from the impact of the oil spill. The Governor also thanked the Guardsmen and women for working closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM). DEP Secretary Mike Sole, DEM Director David Halstead, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director Nick Wiley, and Major General Emmett Titshaw and Major General Douglas Burnett, Adjutant Generals of the Florida National Guard, were among the roundtable participants.

The Governor also spent the Memorial Day holiday with Major General Douglas Burnett at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2185. After expressing his appreciation to Florida veterans for their heroic service, as well as their families' sacrifice, Governor Crist signed House Bill 5, 1145 and 1455. This legislation will accomplish the following:

House Bill 5 – Relating to road, bridge, and building designations. Sponsored by Representatives Denise Grimsley and Kurt Kelly, House Bill 5 makes 47 road, bridge and building designations throughout the state, which includes the Purple Heart Highway, the Veterans Memorial Highway in Gilchrist County, and many others.

House Bill 1145 – Relating to state parks. Sponsored by Senator Carey Baker and Representative Leonard Bemby, House Bill 1145 creates a 25 percent discount on an annual pass to state parks for active duty military and honorably discharged vets. The legislation also provides a "Lifetime Family Entrance Pass" free of charge for service disabled veterans and their families, and for surviving spouses of those who have fallen in combat.

House Bill 1455 – Relating to the misrepresentation of military status. Sponsored by Senator Dan Gelber and Representative Maria Sachs, House Bill 1455 amends existing law relating to solicitation of funds by making it a felony to misrepresent military or veteran status while soliciting funds. The legislation will prevent fraudulent fundraising by those who dishonestly tap into the prestige and credibility of heroic veterans for personal gain.

Military Matters (Cont'd From Page 2) - - .

- ◆ The BP oil disaster makes daily headlines, and causes talented, highly paid leaders to testify. But the thrust of their statements shows “arrows going this way and arrows going that way, saying, ‘I’m not the individual responsible. It was somebody else’.”
- ◆ A state attorney general “forgets” whether he was in Vietnam.
- ◆ And a Congressman appears on TV with a young lady he admitted he had an affair with after he had preached abstinence to his constituents. He sounds like he is saying, “The devil made me do it.”

Neal approached a table where a Naval Academy midshipman in uniform sat with his grandmother, and placed a hand on his shoulder. “I get fed up when I juxtapose the unwillingness of some to accept accountability with the young man sitting at this table who swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Neal gestured to the audience of military officers, spouses, widows and widowers. “You are the kind of rock-bottom people who are the foundation of this country, to whom much is given, and much is required. Yes, we’re going to have the other kind; that’s why so much is expected of you. When we go to the high court of history and we are judged, we will be asked, were we truly men and women with integrity, judgment, and courage?”

Speaking for all Americans who follow those principles, he said, “We accept responsibility and accountability seriously. If we don’t do this, then shame on us.”

Referring back to his audience, he said: “You and I are the apostles. We raised our hands and took that oath of office seriously. Not for 3 years, 20 years, 30 years. We took it until the end of time. Because we believed in what we stand for and what this country stands for: integrity,

judgment and courage. I challenge you to continue.”

He closed by saying: “People like you and I got in line a long time ago and we stayed in line. I thank you for standing for integrity, judgment, and courage. If we encourage our youngsters to embrace those qualities, we can count on our country’s future.”

He received a standing ovation.

Prior to his retirement, General Neal was the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. He currently is a mentor in a mandatory six-week program for newly-selected flag and general officers.

NOTE: This article may be forwarded or republished on your website with attribution to *Crosshairs - Military Matters in Review* by Fred Edwards. Visit <http://www.milmat.net> for more *Crosshairs*.



If you haven’t reserved your cabin for the 2011 Florida Council of Chapters Convention at Sea (Eastern Caribbean Cruise on “*The Freedom of The Seas*” 8-15MAY2011), now is your chance. We want to make sure you get the cabin of your choice by making a reservation for you now. So please visit the Cruise Holiday Web Site (www.cruiseholidays@cfl.rr.com/Viera) or call me at 321-242-1331 soonest.

CAPT Larry Jackson, USAF, Chairman

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ◆ 16SEP2010 - Fall Board Meeting - 1300 – 1600, Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL
- ◆ 16-18SEP2010 - MOAA SE Presidents’ Symposium, Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL
- ◆ 14-16NOV2010 - MOAA Annual Meeting, Sheraton, Arlington, VA
- ◆ 01JAN2011 - Area Vice President Nominations for WC, NE and NW Area from the Nominating Committee Chairs (St. Pete Area, NE Florida and Pensacola Chapter Presidents) due to FCOC Secretary
- ◆ 28 & 29JAN2011 - Winter Presidents Meeting, Hilton San Destin, Destin, FL
- ◆ 01FEB2011 - Chapter Deceased lists due to FCOC Secretary
- ◆ 01MAR2011 - Chapter Membership Dues to FCOC Treasurer
- ◆ 08-15MAY2011 - 2011 Convention at Sea
- ◆ 08-15MAY2011 - 2011 Annual Meeting during Convention at Sea
- ◆ 18-20MAY2012 - 2012 Convention, Marriott Palm Beach, Florida

CHAPTER/CLUB HAPPENINGS

♦ EXPLANATION -- Since I am in Virginia and your newsletters are in Florida, I beg your indulgence with these Awards Pictures. Also, more 2010 Convention Photos should be available on the FCOC Web Site soon. MCL, Editor



MOAA COUNCIL & CHAPTER DIRECTOR COL LEE LANGE AND MOAA CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD GEN RICHARD NEAL, BOTH USMC (RET) FLANK FCOC WEBMASTER LCDR JOHN SNYDER, USN (RET), RECOGNIZED FOR THE "BEST COUNCIL WEBSITE" IN THE 2009 MOAA COMMUNICATIONS AWARD COMPETITION.



COL LANGE AND GEN NEAL FLANK BROWARD COUNTY CHAPTER PRESIDENT COL SAM TRI-CHILO, USAF (RET) AND SHOW OFF HIS CHAPTER'S AWARD STREAMER, THE "BEST PERCENTAGE OF CONVENTION ATTENDANCE."



COL LANGE AND GEN NEAL FLANK ST. PETE AREA CHAPTER PRESIDENT MAJ ED LILLICH, USA (RET) AND SHOW OFF HIS CHAPTER'S AWARD STREAMER, THE "MOST NUMBER OF CONVENTION ATTENDEES."

Photos By The Editor

The Council Communiqué is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April (Convention Issue), June, August, October, and December. A current issue of The Council Communiqué can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: http://www.moaafl.org/. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of the FCOC or the MOAA.



The Council Communiqué
FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED FOR FCOC AND CHAPTER LEADERSHIP. PLEASE FORWARD AS/IF APPROPRIATE. THANK YOU, Mick Cotten, Editor