



SURFWIND

MID-FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER

OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



United We Stand

DEC. 2006



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By BG Pete Chiefari

All in all it has been a good year. Let me begin by thanking all of you for your support. Without your help, we can not be successful as a chapter and as a proponent for the issues that affect us all. I am particularly indebted to our chapter officers and directors for keeping me on the straight and narrow and teaching me how to be president of our chapter. Their hard work is the glue that keeps everything going. The true strength of MOAA and MFGCC is our people. I am pleased to report that the overall health of our chapter, both people-wise and financially is sound. We are attracting new members and have adequate financial resources for our obligations. We have instituted computerized financial reporting this year, and the additional dues will allow us to be on a pay as you go basis while still having a reserve for contingencies.

There is only one issue that worries me. At the end of next year, I will step down as President. We will need a volunteer to assume these duties. I encourage anyone that feels that they want to lead our organization to **contact me now**. I do not want to wait until the end of next year to address the succession. The alternative is frightening. I have still not heard from anyone regarding the secretary position, so if you have not had a call from me yet you will.

The recent election will bring major changes to Congress, and it is difficult to predict their effect. One thing is certain, however. We must remain a powerful voice. To quote Ben Franklin, "We must all hang together, or we will most assuredly hang separately." One more thing. Remember we are starting the December luncheon early because of our holiday program so please be there no later than 11:15 am.

From my family to each of yours, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed and safe holiday season.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By BG Pete Chiefari

A major concern of many members is the effect the recent election will have on our issues. Over the years MOAA has worked hard to gain support for our issues from members of both parties, recognizing that our democratic process periodically leads to leadership changes like the ones generated by this week's election.

Because of those bipartisan efforts, leaders such as Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) have become vocal proponents for some of our top agenda items, including concurrent receipt and elimination of the deduction of VA survivor benefits from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. We have no reason to believe that enthusiasm will diminish once they assume leadership of the House and Senate, respectively, next year.

On the other hand, some on the Republican side who support our initiatives have felt constrained by loyalty to an Administration that strongly opposed these initiatives. Such political obligations may be eased with a change in congressional leadership. This improves the potential for bipartisan action. President Bush has noted since the election that both parties want America to succeed and both want our military to succeed. We take at face value recent statements on both sides that they intend to work together to achieve bipartisan progress.

MOAA and all of us must fight for the causes we care about most. The following issues, which are sorted into major categories, are the major legislative goals for 2007. They are very ambitious, but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Dec 7
MFGCC Board Meets Palm Harbor Library	Dec 7
National Guard Birthday	Dec 13
MFGCC LUNCHEON DUNEDIN COUNTRY CLUB Performance by the Brooker Creek Bobcats Chorus	Dec 13 11:30 AM
Hanukkah Begins	Dec 16
Winter Begins	Dec 22
Christmas Day	Dec 25
New Year's Day	Jan 1
MFGCC Board Meets Palm Harbor Library	Jan 4

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to: Mrs. Florence Feffer, USA; Mrs. Kay Kolasinski, USA; Ms. Edna Langello, USN; CDR Thomas Roberts, USN; Col David Scales, USA; CDR Jean Sewall, USN; Capt Donald Totman, USA. Any surviving spouse of an officer is eligible to join our Chapter as an Auxiliary Member.



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:

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APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Chaplain: Maj. Richard Brunk, AUS
Legislative: BG Peter A. Chiefari, ARNG/AUS
Luncheon Coord.: CDR Ed Hawkes, USN
MacDill Med. Liaison: CDR Ed Hawkes, USN
Membership: Col Phyllis P. Parcells, USAF
Personal Affairs: Maj. Richard Brunk, USA
Programs: CDR Manfred W. Widman, USN
Roll Call Editor: Madelaine Miller, USAF Aux.
Scholarships: LtCol Ralph Moody, USMC
50/50 Coordinator: Ann Brunk, USA, AUX
Surfwind Mailing:
Toys for Tots:
Volunteers: MAJ Geoffrey R. Moody, USMC
Website (Our Chapter): www.moaaf.org/chapters-clubs/f106.html

SURFWIND is the official newsletter of the Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, published Sept. through May. Questions or comments about any material published in the Surfwind should be directed to the editor:

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Mid Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of MOAA
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Legislation

Health Care Issues

Fully fund the Defense Health Program
Protect against health benefit cuts; avoid disproportional cost-shifting to beneficiaries

Upgrade TRICARE to attract more providers and improve TRICARE Standard (expedite claims, reduce provider and beneficiary administrative burdens)

Fix Medicare/TRICARE payment rate formula Ensure a broad TRICARE pharmacy formulary

Improve seamless transition between Defense and VA health care systems

Provide full funding for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system

Retirement/Survivor Issues

Preserve full-inflation cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)

Eliminate Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) SBP deduction

Authorize full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation, to include medical retirees with less than 20 years' service

Accelerate effective date (currently 10/1/08) for 30-year paid-up SBP coverage

Restore VA survivor annuities for qualifying widows who remarry after age 55

Oppose changes in military retirement benefits inconsistent with service sacrifices

Expand permanent ID card eligibility for elderly / disabled beneficiaries

Reform the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)

Active and Reserve Force Issues

Increase active duty, Guard and Reserve end strength force sizes to match mission

Restore full military pay comparability with private sector

Upgrade Guard/Reserve retirement and compensation

TRICARE EXPRESS-SCRIPTS—

Sign in, compare prices, order prescriptions, track your order; view their Drug Digest and obtain Program details. Website is: www.express-scripts.com.

ATTENTION VETERANS

Visit www.myhealth.va.gov and register for **online ordering of VA prescription refills**, or view your VA Personal Health Journal! Online prescription refill is exclusively for VA prescribed medications.

Agent Orange Disability Eligibility- For Vietnam Retirees who served in 1962-1975 and Korea 1968-1969. Registry Exams from the VA are required.

MACDILL AFB MEDICAL & PHARMACY SERVICES-

Urgent Care/Walk In Care has been closed. All emergencies go to Tampa General. Flyers with facts and locations of local TRICARE clinics are available at MacDill.

PHARMACY SERVICES LOCATIONS:

MacDill AFB Pharmacy 24/7 automated refill system; call week before Rx expiration. For policies and services available, call (813) 828-2226.

BX Refill Pick Up Center (door by Taco Bell in Food Court) - for all unclaimed at PharmaCARE Center.

Hospital Pharmacy (immediately right of entrance) - hospital provider patients

PharmaCARE Center-(Beside Burger King W. of BX) - all beneficiaries, outpatient pharmacy.

DEPENDENTS ID CARD RE-NEWAL:

Permanent cards for dependents 75+ years should be available, but call before making the trip.

MacDill AFB DEERS Processing Center - Hours: M-F 0730-1530, Tel: 813-828-2278 (questions). Reservations available.

ELDER CARE CONTACTS

Senior Abuse Hotline 800-677-1116
Elder Care Svc. Locator 800-677-1116

SOCIETY OF MILITARY WIDOWS

Joyce Dieckhaus, Chmn St. Petersburg Chapter (727) 866-8061; E-mail GMJAD@NetZero.com

MID-FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER
OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



MEMBERSHIP

2007 DUES NOW BEING ACCEPTED Any new member paying dues to join our Chapter from now until the end of the year will be paid through the end of 2007. Our annual membership is from January 1st through December 31st, and not on an anniversary date basis, as is National MOAA. Our Chapter does not offer Lifetime Memberships; if you are a Lifetime Member it is for National MOAA.

The MFGCC cost for annual dues is \$15.00, effective for the 2007 membership dues.

Please pay for your 2007 dues by check only, to MFGCC-MOAA, and mail to Col Parcels (address below).

NAME BADGE REQUESTS: Submit form and print name as you want it on the badge (Pin \$7.00 or magnetic \$8.50). Make check payable to MFGCC, and mail with this form to Col. Phyllis P. Parcels, 110 Annwood Rd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MOAA ID NO.: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

REQUEST US TO REMIND YOU TO RENEW YOUR ID:

Dependent ID Expiration Date: _____

OUR chapter only grows if YOU recruit new members!

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please make _____ reservations for me for the luncheon on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 13, 2006 at Dunedin Country Club with the following number of selections: **Each meal costs \$16.00.**

(See map on next page for directions.)

___ **Chicken/Walnut Waldorf Salad**

___ **Meat Loaf/Scalloped Potato, Vegetable**

___ **Fried Grouper Platter, Vegetable**

(All entrees include Holiday Salad/Berries (Soup or Fruit Cup for salad entrée), rolls and butter, Peppermint Ice Cream/Wafer, coffee or tea)

NAME: _____

PHONE#: _____

GUEST: _____

(Guests are welcome, attendance is not restricted to houseguests or prospective members)

Please clip out this form and mail for receipt at mailbox by Dec. 8 to:

Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 716

Palm Harbor, FL 34682-0716

Enclose check payable to MFGCC—MOAA

VOLUNTEER HOURS/BLOOD DONATIONS

Please complete the yellow card on your luncheon tables or you may phone your **Volunteer Chairman, Maj. Geoffrey R. Moody**, 787-8345. A yearly total of 4,444.5 so far.

	Patty Bacon		1 Pt. Blood donated
Dr.	Dr. Robert Boucher	20	St. Ignacious Church
Mrs.	Merryann Brunk	56	Lutheran Church/RuthEckerd/school
BG	Peter Chiefari	38	Dunedin Council
CPT	Paul Connell	8	HOA
Col	William Crawford	96	CityDunedin,Lutheran Church
LtCol	Dorothy Devaney	45	All Childrens Hospital
LtCol	Marjorie Fox	35	All Childrens hospital
Maj	James Gant, Jr.	18	church
LtCol	Peter Graubard	28	PH Library
CPT	Warren & Kay Kolasinski	10	HOA, MOAA
Mrs.	Jessica Enyon Monk	120	TBH,MOAA,elections
Maj	Geoff & Chris	14	church/MOAA
LtCol	Ralph & Lydia	30	church/MOAA
LT	Ernie Moore	28	Countryside hospital
Col	Phyllis Parcels	24	St. Ignacious/MOAA
LTC	William & June	47.5	TBPAC,RuthEckerd,DAV
LTC	Peter Spalding	126	ShepperdCenter
Mrs.	Jean Wallace	30	Hospice,Our Lourdes Catholic Church

LUNCHEON INFO

PLACE:

Dunedin Country Club
1050 Palm Blvd., Dunedin
Tel: 733-6043

TIME: Nov. 8, 2006

11:30—Attitude Adjustment

12:00—Luncheon

Luncheon is a 3 course meal.

PROGRAM: Bobcat Chorus of Brooker Creek Elementary School.

Reservations are made by mailing above form with a check, (\$16 per lunch) payable to MFGCC-MOAA. The amount of the check must equal the cost of lunch multiplied by the number of reservations.

For cancellations or questions, call CDR Ed Hawkes 727-733-4683. Cancellations must be made by Friday prior to the luncheon, to be entitled to a refund. **NOTE:** Reservations are required prior to arrival at lunch; advance payment is strongly requested.



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“Serving Those Who Serve America.”

<http://www.moaaf.org/chapters-clubs/fl06.html>



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Legislation

- Raise relocation reimbursements for government-ordered moves of members
- Upgrade GI Bill benefits to cover 4-year public college costs
- Restore equitable Guard - Reserve GI Bill benefits

Veterans, Family, and Other Issues

- Improve quality, efficiency, and timeliness of VA claims-processing system
- Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and long-term care premiums, and equal treatment of currently serving families
- Authorize long-term mental counseling and support services for survivors and families of severely injured
- Win congressional approval of Flag anti-desecration amendment
- Repeal taxability of up to 85% of Social Security annuity
- Reduce Social Security penalties for certain civil service and state retirees/survivors
- Protect against disproportional Social Security / Medicare penalties for any population segment.

THIS MAY BE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE SURFWIND YOU RECEIVE IN THE MAIL.

IN JANUARY WE WILL NOT MAIL THE SURFWIND BY US POSTAL SERVICE TO ANY MEMBER FOR WHOM WE HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.

If you received this by E-mail, but are adamantly opposed to this change, and want to continue receiving your newsletter through the US Postal Service, you must notify me by E-mail at mmille31@tampabay.rr.com.

“Life does not stand still for families and local communities when our brave men and women are deployed, but we can make their time apart more bearable by recognizing their sacrifice and fulfilling our commitments to them.”

Mark Pryor, Senator

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