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*****MARCH/APRIL 2024*****

COL R. "Craig" Ham, USA, (Ret), President, 2024, Kingdom of the Sun, MOAA



It is American Airlines Flight 1534 from Charlotte to Orlando, and as I am a geographer by training, I have a window seat. The view leaving Charlotte is a complex mosaic of mining, manufacturing, agricultural, transportation, and residential land uses. This is a snapshot of the nation that we all swore an oath to defend. It is both fascinating and incomprehensible—a nation that defies simplistic definition and encompasses multiple histories, cultures, and biases. Yet, we vow to “never stop serving” without reservation or qualification. Make sure that you are fulfilling your obligation as an advocate, both locally and nationally, for the principles that made this the greatest nation on earth and for your fellow veterans who sacrificed to keep it so. Our MOAA magazine makes it easy to weigh in on national issues. Do your buddy checks! Write to your elected officials! Support our

local veteran organizations, and take every opportunity to share your experiences and wisdom with the youth of today. Have you had a meaningful discussion about service and sacrifice with your children and grandchildren? Freedom is indeed only one generation from extinction; don't let it be ours!

Craig
R. Craig Ham, PhD
Colonel (Ret.), U.S. Army
President, The Marion County Veterans Council, Inc.
President, Kingdom of the Sun Chapter, MOAA

“Never Stop Serving”



Kingdom of the Sun Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 4255, Ocala, Florida 34478-4255

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Meetings:

The Kingdom of the Sun Chapter (MOAA), meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month. Dates, times and occasions are announced in advance in the SUNBEAMS.

Members are encouraged to attend and guests are always welcome. Meetings are usually suspended during the summer months of July and August. The KOS Board currently meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00 P.M. at Mimi's Café. Officers and Board Members are required to attend.

Visit our website at:

<http://www.moaafl.org/chapters/KOSMOAA/>

THE DISTAFF SIDE

by Mrs. Betty Hayes

OUR KOS "DISTAFF REPRESENTATIVE" REPORTS ... A FOREVER FRIEND

My close college friend said good-bye to her husband eight months ago. He is residing in heaven now. She is a MOAA-surviving spouse. She lives in her lovely home in Connecticut, and I'm here in Florida. But, thanks to all the advantages of today's technology, we can keep in touch through video, e-mail, Skype, and cell phone chats.

It has been a long time since we have lifted a glass of wine together, challenged each other in a game of trivia, played a spirited card game, or laughed so hard together when we retold old stories. She will celebrate her 93rd birthday in another month.

Her youngest daughter called me recently and extended an invitation to me to come for a weekend while her mother is visiting her in South Florida. I whooped for joy at the thought! What a joyful reunion we will have. I am marking the days off on my calendar until departure day. We will celebrate her birthday together! It is so good to have had such a dear friend for all of these years.

I hope that you too have such a compatible friend who makes you smile to share in your life!

WELCOME SPRING!

MEMORY JOGGER

March 17, 2024, St. Patrick's Day

March 31, 2024, Easter

April 1, 2024, April Fools' Day

April 22, 2024, Earth Day

May 18, 2024, Armed Forces Day

May 27, 2024, Memorial Day

The Surviving Spouses Logo
from MOAA



Kudos...



Murray Walker with his National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) ball cap.

To Murray Walker, our newly appointed KOS Photo Editor. His November 2023 pictures appeared for the first time in the January/February 2024 KOS Sunbeams. The February 2024 FCOC Communique edition has four pictures by Murray in the KOS Chapter Report. Murray was from East St. Louis, Illinois, where he spent time in the local Civil Air Patrol and graduated from a local high school. Murray served in the Air Force and was stationed in various places, such as Cape Canaveral and a Hawaiian satellite tracking station. After serving in the Air Force, Murray worked for Boeing for several years and for Lockheed Martin, where he retired in 2005. He supported 84 space missions before retiring. Murray is married to our KOS member, Carol Walker. Thank you, Murray, for the Sunbeams pictures, and keep your camera ready for more KOS photos.

Big Springs STEM (Science Fair)

The Big Springs Regional STEM Fair was held on February 7th at On Top of the World in Ocala, Florida. Many great projects were judged and selected for awards, which were presented on February 9th. Among them were two projects selected by our KOS judges, CDR Tom Dann USCG and COL Bob Schlegel USA, for our chapter awards of a \$50 gift card each and an invitation to our chapter awards dinner in May for themselves and their parents. Our winners this year are:

Junior Division: Elifah Pyle from St. John Lutheran School for his Environmental Engineering project "What blade ends are most efficient for water design?"

Senior Division: Grace Froehle from the Villages Charter High School for her Environmental Engineering project, "Harnessing LADI technology for the practical collection of meso/microplastics in freshwater systems in Florida without the use of boat trawling for more effective long-term removal of microplastics."

Calendar for KOS Events – March to June 2024

March 7, 2024, KOS Luncheon, 12:00 PM, The Braised Onion

April 4, 2024, KOS Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Stumpknockers

May 2, 2024, KOS Dinner, 6:00 PM, Ocala Elks Club

June 6, 2024, KOS Luncheon, 12:00 PM, The Braised Onion



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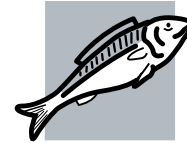


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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Carolyn A. Smith, KOS Chaplain

Fear Not

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his 1933 inaugural address, was attempting to bolster a nation that had just endured several years of a great depression when he stated the memorable words, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." What do you fear? Another depression? Bad health? Or maybe a third-world war?

A while back, I was speaking to a female friend and confessed that a recent night of severe pain had scared me so much that I was afraid of having to be hospitalized. As I sat up in the middle of the night, unable to sleep, I was reminded of a verse from Paul's second epistle to Timothy, in which he asserts that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." At that moment, I felt my fear start to subside because of that scripture's reassurance.

My friend asked me to give her the exact scripture because she had fears of her own. It surprised me to learn that this woman, who always seemed so happy and in love with life, could actually harbor worries. She didn't say what they were, and I didn't ask, but I advised her to read and memorize 2 Timothy 1:7.

Some of the greatest Biblical heroes faced fear. Moses feared his inability to speak in public and lead the Israelites to freedom. In fact, several times during the forty years in the wilderness, God told him to "fear not" and reminded him of the many times He had brought them through perilous situations.

King David also had experiences with fear. But by confessing to God and trusting in Him, he was able to give us that reassuring verse from the 23rd Psalm: "Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me."

Maybe it is time to assert your faith and ask God to take away whatever fear is preventing you from moving forward. Claim God's promises to Moses, David, and others as your own.

In Memoriam

Clara Ince Ward, the mother of Linda Byrd, passed away on 14 December 2023. Clara was 104 years old and was a long-term member of the KOS Chapter.

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SEE AND BE SEEN

Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) Chapter Activities
Arlo Janssen, LTC (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

February 2024 KOS Luncheon-Pictures by Murray Walker (Air Force), KOS Photo Editor



Craig Ham, COL USA (Ret.), opens the February 2024 meeting with a cordial greeting.



MOAA Kingdom of the Sun President Craig Ham, COL USA (Ret.), leads the chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance.



KOS 1st Vice President Nick Navetta, COL USA (Ret.), introduces the guest speaker for the February 2024 meeting.



Mr. Truman Magley, District Director of Boy Scouts of America, North Florida Council, speaking at our KOS Luncheon.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

*(Excerpts from MOAA's email updates, Copyright © Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) or from other sources as cited. See more at: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
Contact Information for KOS Legislation is COL Robert Schlegel, USA*

What the FY 2024 NDAA Means for Your TRICARE Benefit

By: Karen Ruedisueli, Ruedisueli is MOAA's Director of Government Relations for Health Affairs. Abridged Article, January 22, 2024

MOAA's work to preserve your service-earned health care benefit received support from several key provisions in the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which became law last month.

Here's a look at some of the key details from the new law. Keep up with all of MOAA's ongoing health care advocacy work via our Advocacy News page.

TRICARE Pharmacy Network Report

Senate report language connected to the NDAA directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess the impact of TRICARE retail pharmacy network cuts on beneficiaries. Specifically, an upcoming report will examine the effects of the cuts on rural families, compound medication access, long-term care residents, and patients with chronic medical conditions.

MOAA is scheduled to meet with GAO staffers to provide beneficiary insights, including feedback shared by MOAA members via our online reporting tool. Securing the GAO report was a top priority for MOAA and will propel the next phase of our advocacy efforts on this issue.

What is next?

MOAA will continue its work on health care issues not included in the FY 2024 defense authorization bill, including parity for TRICARE young adults and an expanded dental benefit for reserve component servicemembers. These efforts will coincide with broader priorities such as access to care, risks to TRICARE networks, and protecting TRICARE For Life. Reach out to your lawmaker on these issues and others by registering today at MOAA's Legislative Action Center.

MOAA Fights for You

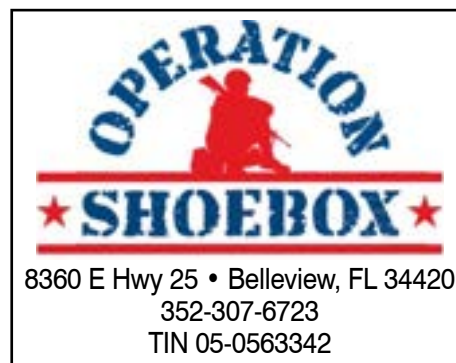
Get involved and make sure your interests are addressed.

Support MOAA's COVID-19 Relief Fund

Donate to help The MOAA Foundation address emerging needs among currently serving and former uniformed service members, retirees, and their families.



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Schedule of Events

Luncheon/Dinner Meetings and Board Meetings

The Braised Onion 754 NE 25th Avenue, Ocala	Stumpknockers 13821 SW Hwy 200, Dunnellon	Ocala Elks Club 702 NE 2nd Avenue, Ocala
MARCH	APRIL	MAY
March 7, 2024 Program: Speaker Clint Wellborn, Ocala Fire Rescue Chief 12:00 PM Cocktails (Cash Bar) 12:30 PM Luncheon Choice of: Quiche of the Day Chicken Parmesan Liver & Onions Southern Cobb Salad Soup & Salad All include beverage, sides, and gratuity. Cost: \$25 per person* <i>Reservations with meal choices</i> <i>ASAP but not later than noon on</i> SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd!	April 4, 2024 Program: Joint Meeting with Citrus Chapter 11:30 AM Cocktails (Cash Bar) 12:00 PM Luncheon Choice of: Fried Catfish Grilled Chicken Prime Rib All include beverage, sides, and gratuity. Cost: TBD <i>Reservations with meal choices</i> <i>ASAP but not later than noon on</i> THURSDAY, MARCH 28th!	May 2, 2024 Program: KOS Awards and Recognition Dinner 6:00 PM Doors Open 6:30 PM Dinner Choice of: Menu TBD All include beverage, sides, and gratuity. Cost: \$30 per person* <i>Reservations will be due by</i> THURSDAY, APRIL 25th!
3/12/24 - Board of Directors 12:00 PM at Mimi's Café Everyone is welcome	4/9/24 – Board of Directors 12:00 PM at Mimi's Café Everyone is welcome	5/14/24 - Board of Directors 12:00 PM at Mimi's Café Everyone is welcome

Tables will be available for single members at all KOS events.

*Walk-ins without reservations will pay an additional \$2.

**Reservations: Please email Doug Juhl at juhld.kos@gmail.com or
Call or text him at (240) 997-2875 as soon as possible.**



Military Officers Association of America
KINGDOM of the SUN CHAPTER

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