

2008 FCOC CONVENTION

LT Bill Keeney, USN
2008 Convention Chairman

Registration for the 2008 Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Convention has been good, but not spectacular. As of March 31st we have 135 personnel registered, not including some folks that are sure to attend (including the Council Communiqué Editor, who [I'm assured] mailed his the day that this was written).

The registration "cut-off" is April 18th, but we can probably accommodate some "late-comers" after that date. Please be aware that Cape Canaveral Chapter (the host chapter) representatives will be on the telephone to Chapter Presidents (who have not signed up) during the next couple of weeks to encourage *your Chapter's* participation.

We believe that we have developed a superior program for the "new" three-day convention format - - and that *your* attendance will benefit you, your Chapter, the FCOC and the MOAA.

Registration Forms are available on-line at the FCOC Web Site (under Convention or The Council Communiqué) - - so sign up today for business, camaraderie, education, and/or just a darn good time in Cocoa Beach on May 2nd thru May 4th. You may well be glad that you did

**STATEWIDE VETERAN
BENEFIT PICNIC**

Claudia Moriarty
Tavernier Elks Lodge

My name is Claudia Moriarty, and I am on the Veterans Committee of the local Tavernier Elks Lodge. I love being a part of it - the Elks built the first VA hospital and have been helping veterans ever since. On May 3 they are holding an all day picnic (*Army of HOPE Picnic*) with music, food, beer activities and more for \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 10 and under at lodges around the state of Florida. All the funds go to helping veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Funds go to amputees, families of recently deceased, are used to help families of the deployed with expenses such as car repairs or replacing a refrigerator that they can't afford and more. I thought your members might want to attend or participate, tickets are available now -- the locations of the participating Elks Lodges and phone numbers are:

- ◆ Pompano 954-781-2300
- ◆ Eustis 352-343-5000 or 352-343-4692
- ◆ Punta Gorda 941-637-2606 or 941-639-8180
- ◆ Sebastian 772-589-1516 or 772-589-6426
- ◆ Warrington 850-455-5522 or 850-453-3825
- ◆ St. Augustine 904-471-2829 or 904-471-4123
- ◆ Fla. Keys 305-852-1872

If any of your people want to help -- ask to speak to the people organizing the Army of Hope Picnic when calling the lodge.

EDITORS NOTE: President Bill Monk thought that this might interest members who would *not* be attending the 2008 FCOC Convention in Cocoa Beach. Sure looks like a worthy effort.



IN MEMORIUM

Capt John R. Watts, USMC (Ret)
28JUL1935 - 20MAR2008

Passed away at home in Port Charlotte, Florida. A "Mustang," John Watts, who retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1972, had served his beloved Corps as a Drill Instructor at Parris Island - - and in two (2) tours in the Republic of Vietnam.

According to his daughter, Linda LeClair, he had recently purchased a set of "Dress Blues," which he dictated be "given to some who can't afford them."

"Military, family and helping other people. That was his goal and his way of life." according to his daughter, Linda - - who also said that (the doctors) "could not understand why he was still here - - He just still had work to do."

Very involved in his community, John served on the Regional Planning Council and chaired the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning and Zoning Board. He was also a member of the Marine Corps League, the Military Officers Association (MOAA), and the Charlotte County Veteran's Council - - and was a Past President of the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA.

John is survived by his wife of 51 years, Norma; a son Frederick of Venice; daughters Mary E. Shepard of Chapel Hill, NC, and Linda of Deep Creek, FL; and sister Ellen J. Shaw of Baltimore, MD.

Donations in his memory may be made to his church, the Hope Lutheran Church, 14200 Hopewell Avenue, Port Charlotte, FL 33981.

EDITOR'S NOTE: My thanks to Norma Watts and Neil Hughes of the Charlotte Sun-Herald for their contributions to the above.

CHAPTER/CLUB HAPPENINGS

◆ **ST. PETE AREA CHAPTER** earned two awards in the MOAA Communications Competition. Their Military Message Center (MMC) won a "Unique Communications" Award for Category II (300-399 members).

The chapter's newsletter, the *Officers Call* was also recognized as 2nd Runner-up in the Print Newsletter Category.

◆ **CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER** won a 2nd Runner-up Award for Large (600+) Chapters for their Web Site (www.moaacc.org).

The chapter's newsletter, the *Intercom* was awarded the Best Legislative Coverage - Print Newsletter Award.

◆ **SARASOTA CHAPTER** won the Best Print Newsletter Award for

Category I (400-599 members) for *The Sarasota Breeze*.

◆ **TAMPA CHAPTER** tied for Second Runner-up (Category I) for their Web Site.

The Chapter was also recognized with a Unique Communications Award for their Wives Club's *Chit Chat*, a monthly print and electronic newsletter for Auxiliary Members and Military Spouses.

◆ **PENSACOLA CHAPTER** was awarded Best Legislative Coverage - Print Newsletter for the *PMOAA Beacon*.

◆ **MAYPORT CHAPTER** won Best Web Site for Category III (200-299 members).

The chapter was also named 1st

Runner-up, Print Newsletter for their *Highlights*.

◆ **CLEARWATER CHAPTER** took 2nd Runner-up, Print Newsletter, Category IV (120-199 members) for their *Drumbeat*.

◆ **LAKE AREA CHAPTER** took 2nd Runner-up, Print Newsletter for Category V (less than 120 members) for their *Lake Area Newsletter*.

◆ **FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS** won the Best Print Newsletter Award for the *Council Communiqué*.

We were also recognized with a Unique Communications Award for the Florida Military Message Center/Interstate Military Message Center (FMMC/IMMC) - - and took 2nd Runner-up for our Web Site.

The **COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ** is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters 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.



Council Communiqué

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Quotable Quotes: Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" - - Robin Williams

Inside This Issue - -:

- ◆ Pres' Comments - - So Long - Farewell - Goodbye!
- ◆ Legislative - - MOAA Issues
- ◆ FCOC VIP Information
- ◆ 2008 Convention - - Register Now!
- ◆ Statewide Veteran Benefit Picnic
- ◆ In Memorium - Capt. John R. Watts, USMC (Ret)
- ◆ Chapter/Club Happenings