



The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

October 2021

Issue 166



President's Message

COL Mike Borders, USA., Ret.

President's Message	1
V P Message	2
Chaplain's Message	5
Membership	6
Legislative Affairs	8
Personal Affairs	10
FL Dept of Veterans Affairs Update	12
FL Veterans Council	14
Surviving Spouse	15
Fun in the Sun	17
Chapter Activities	20-31
FCoC Information, Chapters, Board & Committee Chairs	34-37

As we move into what passes for the "Fall" in Florida, I want to note that our January Leadership Forum in Orlando is tracking. Registration is open—go to www.moaafi.org to pull the agenda and to register. This promises to be a great event. General Skip Sharp, the MOAA Chairman will attend. MOAA is paying for the Friday night awards dinner. We will have sessions on chapter operations, legislative affairs, surviving spouse affairs, a MOAA National update, info briefs on the 2022 and 2023 state conventions, and more. We will also present FCoC leadership awards and the LOE awards for those chapters not attending the October soirée in D.C. Please register sooner rather than later.

Over the last couple of months Diana and I have had the opportunity to visit several chapters for luncheons or dinners. I am continually impressed by the quality and caliber of great leaders and great chapters. In spite of COVID, most chapters have pulled off some really outstanding efforts. I really appreciate the dedication and commitment.

Clearly, the idea of *Never Stop Serving* is something folks understand. At this stage of our lives, this is all about giving back. If you want to see a great example of that, see the Article in this month's *Military Officer* magazine about LTC Carroll Oates of the Indian River chapter. He leads a dynamic chapter. They are engaged, committed, and doing wonders in their local community. Testimony to the great chapters we have in Florida is the fact that we once again led the way with the Levels of Excellence awards. Florida had twice as many as the next closest state. 24 chapters and the FCoC were awarded the 5-star level. As I mentioned above, these will be presented in D.C. this month. Pat Kluever and I will bring back the awards for the chapters not attending. Congratulations to the award winners (see list on page 16).

October is a busy month with our FCoC BOD meeting, the Georgia Convention, the MOAA National business meeting and awards ceremony. There is more, with chapter visits and MOAA "Zoom" sessions. November brings the many

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commitments as we honor our nation's veterans on Veterans Day. As we move to late November, we give thanks for the many blessings our great nation enjoys through the grace of God. The unalienable rights and blessings bestowed on America must be appreciated and preserved. All of you have done, and continue to do your part to that end. God bless you all, and God bless America.

Cheers,
Mike



Vice President's Message

CDR Patrick R (Pat) Kluever, USN, Ret.
Naval Aviator (1320) - Navy Test Pilot School Graduate (Class-71)

First let me echo Mike's thoughts on the Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando 7-8 January 2022. This is an opportunity to get the latest information from our national leaders, and to have a discussion with the people that lead our organization about their vision and goals. Don't pass up this opportunity to learn how to leverage national resources and make your feelings known about where we are headed as an organization. Registration is open now on the FCoC website at "www.moaaf1.org" - sign up today!

Mary and I will be attending the Georgia convention at Ft. Benning 7-10 October, with Mike and Diana. It will be great to see good friends Biff and Trish Hadden and the Georgia Council leadership again. I'm looking forward to all the events at Ft. Benning.

The following week 15-16 October Mary and I will drive up to D.C. for the MOAA National convention. Mike and I will receive the LOE awards and I'll bring them back so they can be awarded to Chapters at the 7-8 January 2022 Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando.

World Affairs: Mary and I returned to our home in Fleet Landing in Atlantic Beach late on Wednesday 29 September from a Viking river cruise that started in Bucharest, Romania on 7 September and ended in Amsterdam the same day we returned. Of course we saw churches, palaces and museums but the most striking were the stories of our guides in the former soviet states about life under communism - living in "commie condos", the shared misery of "socialist realism", and the disdain for the privileged party elite from 1944 to the fall in 1989. Even more striking were the stories of the turmoil of reverting to democratic republics and returning land and homes to owners after 45 years of state ownership. Fields lay untended for up to 15 years while ownership was established followed by new owners without the needed skills or machinery to farm the land. Homes were still in disrepair in 2021 in historic city areas because owners could not be identified or would not return, and the heritage buildings could not be sold or taken over by the city. As the leader of Yugoslavia Tito brought relatively good times, but failed to groom a successor. So when he died in 1980 Yugoslavia broke apart into several states, some who went to war in the 1990's with unexpected atrocities between Serbia and Croatia - we heard different perspectives

from guides from both sides. I wish young Americans could hear these stories about the shared misery of socialism and communism so they would be better informed about the dangers of going down that road.

However humor is still alive there - from a guide across the river from Bavaria:

What do you call a good looking lady in Bavaria? - Answer: Tourist

From a guide in Hungary about the infamously bad car the Yugo:

What is it if you see a Yugo on top of a tall hill? Answer: A miracle - O.K how about if you see two Yugo's on top of a tall hill? Answer: A mirage.

All of the countries we visited had a little different protocol for handling COVID precautions, but Viking helped us understand the procedures, tested us almost every day, and we felt very safe on all of our travels during our trip.

Stay safe and well friends!

Planned Events - 12+ Month Horizon

15 - 16 October 2021 - MOAA National Convention, Arlington, VA

23 October 2021 - Virtual Fall FCoC Board Meeting (Approve Final 2022 Budget)

7 - 8 January 2022 - Rosen Center Orlando - Leadership Training Seminar

WHAT YOUR FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS DOES

Florida Council of Chapters and its Chapters are chartered by and affiliates of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

MOAA and the FCOC are non-partisan, non-profit 501c(19) organizations, and exist to improve the awareness, life style, and overall environment of its affiliate member chapters; support and serve member chapters; influence the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel; and enhance the image of America's uniformed services in our local communities.

The Council serves its affiliated Chapters by means of Council officers' in-person and virtual visits, a Council newsletter, a website with Chapter support and training, quarterly Board meetings, annual Leadership Seminar, and annual Convention.

Treasurer's Report

By Marilyn Leehan, Treasurer, Florida Council of Chapters

REMINDER FROM YOUR FCOC TREASURER

It is always a good recommendation to keep your Chapter's listing on the FCOC website up to date.

However, as we head to the end of the year (my how time does fly), it is especially important to get the membership count up to date. I will send out invoices to the Chapters for the 2022 dues of 75cents per member, based upon the number listed at each chapter's summary on the FCOC website.

As we are expected to be meeting live in Orlando in January for this year's annual Leadership Seminar; I'll be happy to collect your dues check there. We operate on the honor system and if your actual roster count is different than the website listing, you can also provide that data to me at that time. I thank you all for your assistance with this collection.

SIGNIFICANT DATES FOR OCTOBER:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
& Cyber Security Awareness Month
October 10, 2021 - Ms. Veteran America Pageant
Oct. 13, 2021 – Navy Birthday
Oct. 26, 2021 – National Day of the Deployed
(National Day of the Deployed annually honors the United States military personnel deployed around the globe. The designation recognizes all of the brave military personnel who have been deployed, are sacrificing, or have sacrificed their lives to defend our country.)
Oct. 27, 2021 – Navy Day

SIGNIFICANT DATES FOR NOVEMBER:

Military Family Month - A month to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of the families of the U.S. Armed Forces.
November 7, 2021 - Daylight Saving Time ends
November 10, 2021 - Marine Corps Birthday
November 11, 2021 - Veterans Day - The anniversary date of the signing of the armistice which ended the World War I. Also a day set aside to thank military veterans for their service.





Chaplain's Message

By CH (COL) Anthony P. "Tony" Clark, ARNG, Ret.

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3.1

For me, the Raintrees' yellow blossoms and pink blooms signal the arrival of autumn in Florida. Coffee shops brew the pumpkin spice, breweries tap the Oktoberfest, and college football dominates Saturday TV. The air seems a bit drier and, on some mornings, maybe even a bit cooler than the dog days of summer.

We can mark and notice the passing of the seasons through events and days on the calendar. On a deeper level, though, life takes us through different seasons as well: seasons of work, seasons of illness, seasons of joy, seasons of sadness.

A most difficult season of life to navigate is a season of transition because that season of transition often involves waiting. And let's face it; most of dislike, even hate, waiting. Whether it's for the doctor, for traffic, or the microwave to ding. We don't want to wait.

Dr. Seuss captures our frustration with waiting in *Oh, The Places You Will Go!* (originally written as a commencement address) when he describes The Waiting Place, a most useless place, because people are just, well, waiting.

As much as I love Dr. Seuss, I disagree with his assessment of The Waiting Place as a most useless place. Waiting and transition – spending time in The Waiting Place - can be times of personal growth, deeper understanding, and formation for the next chapters and seasons in our life. Perhaps you take a few moments now to look in your life's rearview mirror and discern those times of transition and waiting in your past. What did you learn? How did you grow? How did it lead to the next season?

Seasons of transition can be difficult. And when I find myself in one of those difficult seasons of transition, I look to the words of Isaiah:

Those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)



Membership Chairman

COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret)

In the past two *Communiques*, we discussed growing our membership numbers State-wide to make an even larger impact. In June, the membership topic was the “Target Rich Environment” we live in as Florida is the #3 state in the Nation with resident veterans. In August, we introduced the three Lines of Effort or LOE for conducting a Membership Campaign: (1) Retaining Current Chapter Members, (2) Recruiting New Members, and (3) the internal and external Public Relations effort to “get the word out”. Now let’s dive into LOE #1--Retaining Current Chapter Members.

LOE #1 reflects everything your chapter is doing or needs to do to keep current members and attract new members. You have probably found that recruiting new members is HARD, but retaining current members is even HARDER! Every member you keep is one less that you need to recruit. Ask yourselves these questions: Why would someone want to join your chapter? Does your chapter provide services and philanthropy in your local community? Does it do things for your members and are you organized to help members, be they veterans, spouses, or even family members? Take a critical look at your chapter--Does it have a purpose for being or what we in the military call “a mission”?

Basic mission activities that each chapter should be performing fall into the areas of Legislative Advocacy, Community Service and Philanthropy, and a special Camaraderie with fellow members as you go about this important work.

- Being affiliates of MOAA National, our common mission is to support MOAA’s Legislative Advocacy efforts, but we need to also be doing this at the local-level, and in conjunction with the Florida Council, at the state-level.
- Giving back to your community by conducting a variety of community service and charitable giving activities.



Recruiting in HARD, Retaining is HARDER!

- Does your Chapter have a:
 - Purpose/Mission?
 - Activities and Events to interest all?
 - Welcoming and Inclusive Environment?
- Plan to convert Annual Members to Life Members
- Have a Contact Plan for Non-Renewals
- All members MOAA Basic Members; encourage Premium & Life Membership

“NEVER STOP SERVING”

- Taking care of your members. Holding events--from business meetings, and lunches/dinners to special events and activities. Providing services for your members is part of this too.

Retaining members and attracting new members to your chapter is a mission task that rests with all Chapter leaders. In the next Communiqué, we’ll discuss the second LOE,

continued on next page...

with tips and techniques to recruit new members. Every member is a recruiter! Meanwhile, let's get organized and grow our numbers!

If you have questions or comments, contact me at stevebond335@gmail.com.

Reasons to Join a Chapter

You know the value of belonging to your chapter and MOAA. But when you are talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA and the MOAA chapter system. Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member. Find out as much as you can about their priorities to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally. Here are some aspects of membership that may appeal to them.

- 1. Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C.
- 2. Give back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue to serve and are giving back in the truest sense.
- 3. Value added to chapter members' lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
- 4. Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired servicemembers who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.
- 5. Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
- 6. Influencing state and local legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.
- 7. Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses, offering the opportunity to connect with others with similar backgrounds and interest and develop close and lasting friendships.



Legislative Affairs

Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF, Ret., Legislative Chair



**MOAA's Advocacy in Action
Campaign – Status Update**



Congress Passes Continuing Resolution on Eve of Government Shutdown

The House passed its Continuing Resolution Bill **HR 5305** extending funding at the FY 2021 levels to keep government operations running until December 3rd, and thus setting the stage to avoid a shutdown on September 23rd.

The Bill also contained provisions for supplemental Disaster Relief monies, supplemental funding for assistance to ongoing actions dealing with the Afghanistan refugees, and an extension of the Debt Limit to preclude the US Treasury from defaulting on its obligations. It passed on a strictly party line vote of 220-211, and sent to the Senate the next day.

The Senate amended this Bill to eliminate the provisions for extending the limit on the National Debt, and passed it September 30th on a vote of 65 - 35. Fifteen republicans supported this Bill including Senate minority leader McConnell, and the four Senators from LA and SC, both areas devastated by storms this year. Senators Rubio & Scott were both among the 35 nay votes.

Because of the changes made in the Senate, the Bill required a second vote in the House which took place later the same day. It passed on a vote of 254 -175. With a vacancy still open in District 20, the Florida delegation vote was 13 yeas (10 Ds – 3 Rs) to 13 nays (all by Republicans). Find out how your representative voted here: [H.R. 5305: Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act -- GovTrack.us](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr5305)

House Passes FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act

Also on September 23rd the House passed its NDAA for FY 2022 - HR 4350, on a bi-partisan vote of 316-113. There were 6 members of the Florida delegation who voted against this bill: Congressmen Rutherford (District 4), Posey (8), Webster (11), Steube (17), Mast (18), and Donalds (19).

Here are highlights on the House and Senate versions of the NDAA, which includes some of the MOAA-backed improvements to military pay and benefits:

- **A 2.7% military pay raise** is included in both the House and Senate bills

MOAA Legislative Update:

Read about the latest MOAA Advocacy News and Calls-to-Action here.



<https://takeaction.moaa.org/>

Some lawmakers have noted the increase does not keep up with inflation. This raise remains tied to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) but fails to address a pay gap of 2.6% when pay raises fell below ECI in 2014-2016 because of budget sequestration.

- Provisions from **the Military Hunger Prevention Act** are included in both versions of the NDAA this year that will authorize a new allowance for families that fall within a band of the local poverty line. The House version is stronger than the Senate
- **TRICARE Young Adult parity**, did not make it into the House or Senate NDAA versions and will remain a MOAA priority next year.
- **Concurrent Receipt, addressed in the Major Richard Star Act** (H.R. 1282-introduced by Cong Bilirakis; FL-15), did not make it into the House NDAA. However, the Senate sponsors will submit their Bill (S 344) as an amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA later this month. ***It remains important for MOAA members to reach out to your lawmakers and ask them to sign onto H.R. 1282 and S. 344, as co-sponsors in order to ensure those Bills will roll over to the next legislative session for consideration.***
[See the *Lesson Learned* section for a story on MOAA's reminder to keep the pressure on our Legislators.]
- The House version of the NDAA requires a joint report from DoD and the VA on the **next national cemetery** and voices concern over **eligibility changes for Arlington National Cemetery** that would force those who have made burial plans to choose a different cemetery or cremation. An amendment to the Senate NDAA is expected from SASC member Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who shares the concern of reducing this benefit.

When the Senate finishes its work and votes on their NDAA, we will have another chance to weigh in as the Joint Conference Committee meets to reconcile the inevitable differences between the House and Senate versions. And once again when the JCC returns it back to both houses for a final vote. Keep on watch for any news and MOAA calls-to-action as this important legislation meanders through the legislative process!

An Important Lesson Learned

In a conversation as recently as September 28th a Congressional staffer reported to a MOAA staffer that ***“We did not have constituents reach out or write in to us that we have on record”*** requesting support for and co-sponsorship of the Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for medically retired military).

This prompted the MOAA staffer to write to me asking *“are there MOAA members from congressional district XX who can reach out to [him on this matter]?”* I have deleted the Congressman's name as it could have been ANY district in FL.

I sent out a message to the FCoC Area VP that covers chapters in that district requesting they “get out a message urging the congressman to sign on to co-sponsor the bill” with a comment saying that I find it hard to believe there were no messages to this congressperson from Florida MOAA members (and as it turned out that was the case.)

FCoC President Mike Borders sent this message to the MOAA staffer: ***“For the record, I sent such letter to their office. More than once. In fact, several times.”***

That message was forwarded to the congressional staffer, who replied “I had our Legislative Correspondent check for any emails on this request and he found a **few** in our general email address.”

More importantly he passed on this advice which should be helpful to all of us when communicating to our elected officials: “For constituents reaching out to our office, the best method of communication is to **email us through [the official congressional web site]. *This is the best way for the office to keep track of how many constituents write in about specific issues or bills.***”

The lesson to be learned from this is to **use multiple means of communicating when advocating for our important legislative agenda** – phone calls to both the District and DC offices; email via the links in MOAA’s Calls-to-Action; emails using the congressional web site “contact me” links; and sending snail mail to the District offices. Any mail they receive addressed to the congressperson is faxed to DC.

The “Legislative Correspondent” (usually an intern) keeps track of the number of hits for and against every issue/bill that comes into their office and for the most part is reported internally every day. Repetitive correspondence from constituents boosts those numbers and raises the awareness of the staff and legislator to the message in that correspondence.

Additional NOTES:

I reported on the co-sponsorship status of this Bill in my column on page 9 of the August FCoC *Communique*.

And on August 27th I emailed a **Special FCoC Legislative Call to Action** to all Chapter presidents requesting we double up our efforts to overcome the disappointing number of co-sponsors from our congressional delegation on the three topics in MOAA’s **Advocacy-in-Action Campaign**.

We have not seen any changes in co-sponsorship from the Florida Congressional delegation since that early August report.



Personal Affairs

Col Paul Loschiavo, USMCR (Ret)

Personal Affairs: ID Cards

The Department of Defense is in the process of replacing the current paper based Uniformed Service ID cards with modern, plastic ID Cards called “Next Gen USID Cards.” The new ones include special features that make them more difficult to counterfeit. Though the process was delayed by Covid, if you currently have a military ID, you should now be able to get a new one.

If your card includes an expiration date, you might consider arranging the new one at that time. If

your current card says “indef,” you’ll need to do it by January 2026. For many couples, one spouse has a retired ID that says “indef,” and the other (non-veteran) spouse has an ID with an expiration date. When you get ready to do the non-veteran spouse ID, I’d just schedule both at the same time. If it’s just you with an “indef” card, I’d wait until this Covid thing is finally on the wane.

Kind of like it was when the Covid vaccines first came out, the best way to get an ID card is by setting up an appointment *online*. Simply go to idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/ and register. (You have to wonder why the DOD doesn’t spring for a website such as [get-new-ID-card.mil/?...](https://get-new-ID-card.mil/))

When you go to the site, it asks you to put in your zip code. Having just moved to Longwood, just north of Orlando, I’m unfamiliar with any potential places, so this was a good drill. I put in my new zip code and found out that there are no ID facilities within ten miles.

I increased the radius to 25 miles and three showed up. The first one I picked was 16 miles away. I checked it’s calendar. They were booked solid for thirty days.

Note-to-self: set up the appointment at least *two months* prior to when you need it.

Back in the nineties, I was the CO of the Marine Corps Reserve unit in West Palm Beach. I was also pretty active in the community and knew lots of veterans. Invariably, an acquaintance would call me personally asking if I could get him in quickly for an ID card. (It was almost always a *colonel*...). It drove me nuts because it always inconvenienced somebody; either the Corporal who got pulled out of training to do it or the other veteran who was bumped in line.

The point is... *use the system and register online.*

There’s another advantage: when you register online, you fill in all your information and when the admin person goes to actually produce your card, all they need to do is verify your current IDs and click “print.” (If your name happens to be *Borders*, it probably doesn’t get screwed up very often. Not so, if your name is *Loschiavo*.)

When you register online, it will tell you what to bring - basically two government issued IDs. Your unexpired Military ID can be one of them, but it has to be *unexpired*. Make sure you get it right. Marine Corps corporals are not exactly known for their sense of humor.

The last time my wife and I went for a new ID, we registered online. The appointment was about six weeks out, but when we walked in, both of us were done in less than ten minutes. Easy peasy. Now, I wonder... is the new card the same size as a credit card? That... would be pretty neat!





Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

Lt Col R. Steven Murray, USAF (Ret.)
Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Florida Legislature Meets in Preparation for 2022 Legislative Session

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Legislature is gearing up for the 2022 Legislative Session with a series of Interim Committee Weeks scheduled through the end of 2021. Legislative committees are meeting in October and November to receive state agency updates, budget requests, and to consider legislation impacting Florida residents.

The legislature meets in session every year for sixty consecutive days. The 2022 Florida Legislative Session begins Jan. 11 and ends March 11.

In 2021, more than 3,100 bills were introduced in the Florida Senate and House of Representatives, with upwards of 2,600 amendments introduced to guide the legislation through various committees prior to a floor vote. During the final days of last year's legislative session, 3,788 votes were taken during 39 floor sessions. Only 275 bills were passed by both chambers and sent to Gov. Ron DeSantis for consideration.

Veteran-related legislation that was signed into law following last year's session can be found by visiting the website of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs at <https://www.floridavets.org/news/veteran-legislation/>.

For more information on future veteran-related legislation, please contact:

Colonel Roy Clark, U.S. Army (Ret)
Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
ClarkR@fdva.state.fl.us
(850) 487-1533



Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a proclamation commemorating September 26, 2021 as Gold Star Family Day in Florida. A Gold Star Family Monument Dedication Ceremony was held October 6th at [Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell](#) to honor Florida’s Gold Star Families.



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, as the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation, Florida will always support our military and their families; and

WHEREAS, Gold star families – spouses, children, parents, siblings or others whose loved one died in selfless service to our nation – are a vital part of our state’s military community and history; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of the Gold Star began during World War II when gold stars were placed on service flags to honor the service member for their ultimate sacrifice to the country; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis and Governor Ron DeSantis have made it a priority to honor the memories of our fallen heroes and meet with Gold Star families throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mental health and substance abuse recovery resources are available to help Gold Star Families with the immense struggles they may experience; and

WHEREAS, the Hope for Healing initiative has been expanded by First Lady Casey DeSantis to include resources from state agencies, including the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, to help Floridians overcome challenging times; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles produces a Gold Star license plate for Gold Star Family Members to honor their fallen family members; and

WHEREAS, as of September 2021, there are 1,126 Gold Star Vehicle License Plates in circulation showcasing the community members of Gold Star Families and supporters in the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, a Gold Star Family Monument Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for October 6, 2021, at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell to honor Florida’s Gold Star Families; and

WHEREAS, the Honor and Remember Flag is flown on Gold Star Family Day in Florida to embody the respect and gratitude we have for our fallen heroes and Gold Star Families; and

WHEREAS, Gold Star Family Day grants Floridians the opportunity to show abiding gratitude and keep the memory of deceased service members alive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 26, 2021, as *Gold Star Family Day in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 26th day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-one.

Governor



Florida Veterans Council Update

MAJ Lorraine Holland, USA (Ret), FCoC Committee Chair
Florida Veterans Council

Florida Women Veterans Town Hall Meetings

I consider it an honor to be the chairperson of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) Fact-Finding Committee on Women Veterans Benefits and Communications.

With the backing of the Governor and the FDVA Director MG(r) Hartsell, our committee was established to assess the needs of Women Veterans in Florida, and to bring awareness by communicating State and Federal Veterans' benefits afforded to the 165,000 Women Veterans who call Florida home. The Fact-Finding Committee will conduct a total of 4 Town Hall meetings with women veterans to capture their opinions and any recommendations for improvement. Our committee is an extension of the FDVA's Operation Forward March initiative, and we will build on its findings. Our committee will deliver a written report to Governor DeSantis by Jan 1st 2022 with our findings and recommendations to better serve our women veterans.

Our 14-member Committee is comprised of twelve female veterans, many who have served in combat from Vietnam to Afghanistan, and our two female civilian members are active in organizations that support female veterans. Each Town Hall will allow attendance in person and virtually. We held our first of four Town Halls here in Orlando, and we are hosting 3 additional Town Hall meetings on October 7th in Jacksonville, October 21st in Pensacola, and Oct 28th in Ft. Lauderdale. If you are unable to appear in person, we are urging participants to appear virtually.

Our committee is highlighting State and Federal Veterans' benefits to ensure they are accessed by all eligible Veterans, especially our Florida Female Veterans. I encourage you to get the word out on our upcoming Town-Halls, and for women veterans to take a short Florida Women Veteran's Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TGSCG5Y>.

There is safety in numbers and having 165,000 strong-willed Florida female veterans is a force to be reckoned with! Again, I thank all my sisters in arms for participating, and I appreciate each and every one of you.

Women Veterans Town Hall Meeting

October 21, 2021 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Scuder Community Institute (SCI)

220 W. Garden Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

Virtual registration - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2877479522371575310>

In-person registration - <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/florida-department-of-veteran-affairs-19349599658>

October 28, 2021 12:30-2:30p.m.
Ft Lauderdale location and registration information to follow

Become a part of HERstory

Leave your legacy for future generations by becoming a part of HERstory. To participate **email** the Center for Women Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans (CWV) at 00w@va.gov. (CWV). The CWV and the Library of Congress Veterans History Project #IANI 3.0 campaign needs Women Veterans to tell their story. Women have served admirably in every war since the Revolutionary War - Has your story been told?



Surviving Spouse Corner

Patricia Green, Surviving Spouse Liaison

This won't be the last time I'll say it. You should join the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. Do it today.

It's a bargain. There are no dues.

It's easy. Go to the www.moaa.org website. Click on I am a Surviving Spouse, scroll down to the Virtual Chapter and fill out the form and send it.

It's convenient to attend the Zoom meetings. On odd numbered months (held at 1pm on the third Tuesday), there is a formal agenda with speakers. On even numbered months (held at 5 pm on the third Tuesday), there is a free exchange of ideas, facts and experiences.

The next meeting is October 19 at 5pm Eastern time. Call or email me for help to join or for a zoom invitation.

Each month I see several smiling tanned Florida faces on our zoom meetings, but I'd like more of you to join because of the great information that is exchanged at the Virtual meetings.

Below are some information you missed if you did not attend:

Guest speaker, Patti Redmond, author of "We the Widows". She discussed her second book "Words from the Heart". The personal accounts of veteran life in service of 78 World War II veterans is included.

A report on the October 13-16 National MOAA annual Meeting, special events and the Level of Excellence Awards.

The upgrade of award to Silver Star of Valor to the 19 rangers and Delta Force members who were killed at Mogadishu. This and other activities will be held at a ceremony at Fort Benning, GA on October 1, 2021.



Leadership training session in San Diego, CA on November 19-20, 2021.

Jerry Graham announced that there are now 3 Virtual Chapters and a Council of Virtual Chapters.

She is working on a table top poster (headlining MOAA and Surviving Spouses) to be used at events.

Lots of other timely information.

Finally, and VERY IMPORTANT... I will be going on a road trip in October-November to connect with other Surviving Spouses in Florida. I will contact local MOAA Chapter leadership in various locations. PLEASE respond quickly, since I will only be available in each area of Florida for a day or two at most.



Every year, MOAA’s affiliates compete to receive a four- or five star Levels of Excellence Award. For their work in calendar year 2020 the Florida Council and 24 Chapters earned five-star awards— Congratulations to all.

- Florida Council of Chapters
- Calusa Chapter
- Charlotte Harbor Chapter
- Clearwater Chapter
- Historic Mayport Chapter
- Kingdom of the Sun Chapter
- Lee Coast Chapter
- Northwest Florida Chapter
- St. Petersburg Area Chapter
- South Central Florida Chapter
- Sun City Center Chapter
- Tampa Chapter
- West Central Chapter

- Ancient City Chapter
- Cape Canaveral Chapter
- Citrus County Chapter
- Halifax Area Chapter
- Indian River Chapter
- Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
- Northeast Florida Chapter
- Palm Beach - Martin Counties Chapter
- Sarasota Chapter
- Southwest Florida Chapter
- Suncoast Chapter
- Volusia County Chapter



Fun in the Sun!

Behind the Scenes of the FCOC 2022 Convention
 Marty Brown, Publicity Coordinator



The Florida Council of Chapters Convention, June 9-12, 2022
[West Palm Beach Marriott](#)

In the last ten years of participating with the FCOC and attending several conventions, I have often wondered what it takes to put on an event like this. Therefore, I was delighted when Marc Oliveri asked me if I'd be publicity coordinator for the 2022 event. It's now my privilege to present just how it's done and solicit your interest and participation.

The FCOC hosts this year's convention thanks to the chairman, Marc Oliveri, who volunteered to organize the event for the Council. Marc is a member of the MOAA National Board of Directors, has hands-on experience planning FCOC conventions like the 2012 event hosted by the Palm Beach chapter.

Let's have a salute to the people who have stepped up to make this possible. This list also gives you a high-level look at the kind of activities we are planning.

The 2022 Convention Committee:

<i>Fun in the Sun!</i>	Committee Chair	Marc Oliveri, LTC, USAR, (Ret)
Day	Event	Volunteer
Thursday, June 9	Registration	Marilyn Leehan, FCOC Treasurer
	Hospitality Suite	Ray Eldred, LTC, USA (Ret)
	Local Tours	Nick Marotta, Maj, USAF (Ret)
	Dine on the Town	Paul Loschiavo, Col, USMC (Ret)
Friday, June 10	FCOC Outgoing Board Meeting	Mike Borders, COL, USA (Ret)
	President's Reception	Dan Hill, LTC, USA (Ret)
	Casino Night	Tom Wagner, COL, USA (Ret)
	Saturday, June 11	All Hands Breakfast
	Memorial Service	Tony Clark, COL, ARNG (Ret)
	Annual FCOC Business Meeting	Mike Borders, COL, USA (Ret)
	MOAA Update Seminar	MOAA Staff
	Wine Tasting Seminar	Seminar details in future issues
	Local Tours	
	Military Ball Mystery Night	Ron Birchall, LTC, USA (Ret)
Sunday, June 12	FCOC Incoming Board Meeting	Pat Kluever, CDR USN (Ret)
Other Volunteers	Convention Magazine	Steve Bond, COL, USA (Ret)
	Publicity Coordinator	Marty Brown

Our first committee Zoom meeting was on August 10th, ten months before the event, but the committee had already done a lot of the work. Did you know that hotels take bookings for conventions like ours two or three years in advance? The hotel, the casino night company and the mystery dinner were already booked before our first committee meeting.

Chairman Marc made the point from the beginning that his vision for this convention was to have fun, vacation, relaxation, which means less business and more activities and leisure time. So even though the convention events look “the same as usual,” there are some significant differences.

Thursday has been set aside to tour the local area to attract those who might like to spend a little more time in the area. Nick Marotta is currently researching group rates and transportation, so stand by for more information.

[DivaDuck Tour](#) – Enjoy West Palm Beach from the water
[Worth Avenue](#) – For some upscale shopping
[Flagler Museum](#) – Henry Flagler’s estate, turned museum
[Breakers Tours](#) – Palm Beach’s luxury resort
[Seal Museum](#) – Navy-Seal Museum, Ft. Pierce
[West Palm Beach Zoo](#)

Thursday evening, we will be dining on our own. Paul Loschiavo has put together a list of restaurants such as The Cheesecake Factory, City Cellar Wine Bar and Grill, RH Rooftop restaurant, and many more. I’ll provide a complete list in a future article.

Something new follows the President’s Reception on Friday evening. Tom Wagner has been working on an exciting [Casino Night](#) that will also be a fundraiser for the MOAA Foundation.

Seminars are a new addition to the convention schedule. In addition to the MOAA Update, the plan will add one or two additional seminars on Saturday afternoon. These sessions will be on topics of general interest to members and their guests.

The traditional Saturday evening Military Ball will become the Military Ball Mystery Night. We will start with cocktails on the patio and an opportunity to meet with the actors from [The Dinner Detective](#), who will be gathering information for the production. The play will have a 1940s look and feel, so if that mess dress cummerbund doesn’t fasten, you might consider dusting off the old zoot suit.

Who is going to be there? Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, President and CEO of MOAA will speak at the Saturday morning All Hands breakfast. Loraine Holland is the organizer. Ron Birchall reports that the dinner speaker for the Military Ball Mystery Theater will be Gen. Gary North, a current MOAA board member and the incoming Chairman of the MOAA Board 2022.

Step Up and Sign Up! I’m appointing everyone who reads this article a convention ambassador. You can help by making a convention announcement at your Chapter meeting! You can place a piece in your Chapter newsletter or website. Feel free to use these articles for newsletters, websites, and talking points.

Stay tuned! I’ll be back in December with more!

Marty Brown, Publicity Coordinator
FCOC Convention 2022
n4gl.marty@gmail.com

Have you ever wondered why there are two “Navy” days in October?

The Two Navy Holidays: Navy Birthday and Navy Day

From Military.com

The Navy Birthday is one of the two Navy-wide dates celebrated annually – Navy Birthday and Navy Day.

The United States Navy was originally established as the Continental navy on 13 October 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized the procurement, fitting out, manning, and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. The legislation also established a Naval Committee to supervise the work. All together, the Continental Navy numbered some fifty ships over the course of the war, with approximately twenty warships active at its maximum strength.

Navy Day was originally sponsored by the Navy League 1922. Navy Day is designed to give recognition to the naval service. The Navy League of New York proposed that the official observance be on 27 October in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, who had been born on that day.

In 1972 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized recognition of 13 October as the Navy's birthday. In contrast to Navy Day, the Navy Birthday is intended as an internal activity for members of the active forces and reserves, as well as retirees, and dependents. Since 1972 each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."



Florida Council of Chapters "Chapter News"

Kingdom of the Sun Chapter

LTC Arlo Janssen, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

The Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) Chapter met at the Braised Onion Restaurant in Ocala, FL, on September 2, 2021. The call to Order was conducted by the Chapter President, Lt Col Carol Walker, USAF (Ret). The speaker for the September 2021 luncheon was Mike Balken, Chief of Police for the City of Ocala, FL. He spoke on the many "Policing Challenges in 2021" concerning the local and state police organizations. President Carol Walker presented Chief Balken a Certificate of Appreciation at the end of his excellent presentation.

The next KOS Chapter meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2021, with LTC Dan Hill, USA (Ret), the Mid Central area Vice President for the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC.) The October luncheon is scheduled for The Braised Onion at 754 NE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida.



*KOS members at the September 2, 2021 "Welcome Back" luncheon.
 L-R: Front Row, COL Robert Schlegel, USA, Ms Astor Black, Ms Clara Ward.
 L-R: Back Row, COL Gorham Black III, USA (1st VP, KOS), Lt Col Carol Walker, USAF (President, KOS), Linda Byrd, SSM (Treasurer, KOS)*



*Chief of Police Mike Balken receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Lt Col Carol Walker (USAF), President of the Kingdom of the Sun Chapter (KOS), on September 2, 2021 at the KOS September Luncheon.
L-R: Mike Balken, Chief of Police for the city of Ocala, FL and Lt Col Carol Walker (USAF), President of the Kingdom of the Sun Chapter (KOS), Ocala FL.*

Sun City Center Chapter

Maj. James Haney USMC

Florida Council of Chapters President Mike Borders Presents MOAA leadership awards to Eunice Paxtot and Walt Cawein

These distinguished awards were presented at MOAA SCC's monthly membership luncheon meeting on Wednesday 1 September. The award was based on the pair's development of a patriotic program delivered at the July MOAA luncheon. The presentation received rave reviews from the audience who recommended it be delivered at least once yearly around Independence Day. Ms. Paxtot (Col, USA ret) and Mr. Cawein (LtCol, USAF ret) are officers on the board of the SCC Chapter of Military Officers Association MOAA. Ms Paxtot is first Vice President in charge of programs, while Mr. Cawein is Membership Director. Mr. Borders used the occasion to announce the MOAA's SCC chapter had again been awarded the Association's highest award for its operation for this year, The Five Star Level of Excellence.



Mike Borders, Ms. Paxtot, MOAA SCC President Jim Haney, Mr. Cawein, and immediate Past President Benny Blackshire who took part of the awards ceremony.



FCOC President Borders awarding Ms. Paxtot and Mr. Cawein their Leadership Awards

Chapters Health Valor Program VP speaks at September 1st Luncheon

Mr. Adam Stanfield provided a briefing on the Chapters Health program which honors military veterans and first responders with a high quality of life until their last breath. The Valor program provides veterans and their families with home care, hospice care, and grief services along with a number of enhanced program offerings that should be very attractive to aging veterans and their families.





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Southwest Florida Chapter

Susan Farr, President

Palmetto Ridge High School JROTC & Tuscany Villa of Naples – Sept. 3, 2021

MOASWF was awarded a grant by MOAA for Service Learning for members and JROTC schools to assist Veterans in Assisted Living facilities. As one Cadet, Cadet Madeleine Jones, wrote of her experience: I am in my third and final year of high school, and I am a LET 3 in Palmetto Ridge High School’s JROTC program! I am so proud to say that I am co-commanding the assist team this year with one of my best friends! Today we had the opportunity to visit the Tuscany Villa Assisted Living facility, and it was a very good experience for both myself and the rest of the team. We were given a tour of the building, including one of the vacant apartments, the dining area, the pool, and the



movie theater. We were able to ask questions about the staff and facility, and possibly working there in the future. I was able to introduce myself and so were the other team members, and we brought candy around to the residents. I was very excited to get to know the residents because they all seem so sweet! I was able to interact one on one with some of the residents and learn about where they are from and what they did during their working years. I even met a woman whose son was also staying in the assisted living facility, which I thought was so cool! They seemed happy to talk about things that interested them and stories about their lives, and I was happy to listen. I am so glad we are having this team as a part of our program this year.



Madeline Jones, Steven Schlinder, Veteran Bob Jurek, Jillian Paquette, Victoria Romeo, Jorge, Mauricio



Cape Canaveral Chapter

Marilyn M. Sanford, MOAACC Media Relations

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Provides Grants to Brevard JROTC Units

On Thursday, August 5 at the annual “kickoff the school year” meeting of the heads of Brevard Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, MOAACC’s Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) handed out 15 checks to the various high school JROTC programs totaling nearly \$20,000. These will support training cycles, competition, and equipment. Brevard has one of the largest per-capita JROTC programs in the nation and, critical to their ability to function, are local support grants. This year, due to generous MOAACC members, the GDF was able to provide each of the 15 programs with a \$1,300 check to help ensure their success.

After receiving the GDF funds for Rockledge HS Army JROTC, LTC Brian Whalen, USA Ret. Commented: "We are extremely grateful for MOAACC Good Deeds and their continuous support of our JROTC programs. The money you provide helps our program in many ways. It offsets the cost of transportation for our field trips; travel to and from our community service events; and competitions. Furthermore, it frees up more time for us to coach, mentor, train and lead our students while instilling motivation, direction, and purpose in their lives instead of focusing on fundraising all the time.



Florida Senator Tom Wright is Guest Speaker at MOAACC Lunch

Florida State Senator Tom A. Wright was the guest speaker for the August 17 luncheon of the Military Officers Association of America's Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC). The luncheon was held at The Tides Club, at Patrick Air Force Base.

Senator Wright was elected to the Senate in 2018 and represents Senate District 14, which consists of parts of Brevard and Volusia Counties. He currently serves as Chair of the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security. He also serves on six additional committees: The Committee on Children, Families and Elder Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; Finance & Tax; Transportation; and the Appropriations Subcommittees on Education, and Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development. He is also proud to serve as Co-Chair of the Florida Space Caucus and the Florida Manufacturing Caucus, and is an appointed member of the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

As Senator, his priorities have included supporting Florida's veteran population, improving the State's water quality, and striving to protect Floridians through consumer protection and prescription drug transparency initiatives. Throughout his personal life, Senator Wright has dedicated his time and effort to assist with affordable housing for the homeless, and to eliminate the domestic abuse of women, children, and animals.

Speaking to a group of mostly retired military officers, he spoke of his family's military history. He is currently helping veterans with PTSD get alternative treatment, which generated a study which will be presented to the VA. Some of his most important work is to ensure that military ranges and spaces surrounding military bases in Florida are not degraded. This includes the over-water ranges required by the Air Force and Space Force. He has also helped pass legislation for law enforcement/first responders' usage of drones, and sponsored legislation to allow medical transportation of K9 dogs injured in the line of duty.

Retired US Army Col. Steve Bond, President of MOAACC, presented Senator Wright with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for his commitment and work on behalf of the Military and Veteran Communities.



FL Senator Tom Wright



Senator Tom Wright (left) and MOAACC President Steve Bond (right)

L-R Colonel Mike Borders USA (R) President of FCOC and his wife Diana, Senator Wright, MOAACC President Steve Bond, and Maj Tim Pishdad MOAACC Legislative Affairs Committee



Congressman Bill Posey’s Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

On September 1st, Congressman Bill Posey (FL Congressional District 8) met with area Veteran-Leaders of his Veterans Advisory Council. The Council included four MOAACC Members.

The Veterans Council discussed a wide variety of issues facing the military and veterans, including those in MOAA’s Advocacy in Action efforts: Toxic Exposure Reform; obtaining a Basic Needs Allowance for junior enlisted service members; Tricare Parity for young adult dependents of service members; Concurrent Receipt of retired and disability pay (Major Richard Star Act); and the Arlington National Cemetery expansion.

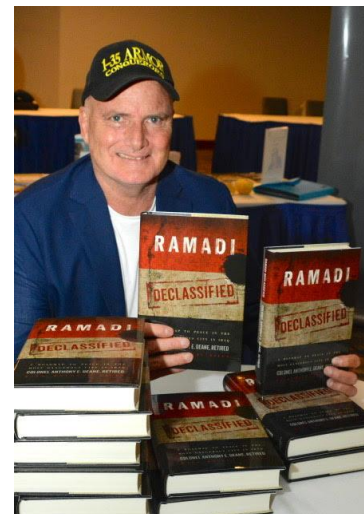
They also discussed “hot button” issues facing Congress related to the military and veterans including: the Afghanistan withdrawal; mandatory Critical Race Theory training in the military; Veteran (including women veterans) health care; and Addressing Sexual Harassment and Assault in the Military.



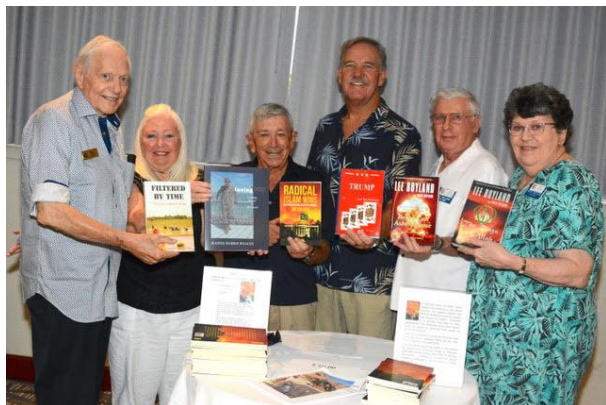
*Congressman Bill Posey – Center;
MOAACC Members - COL Danny McKnight, USA Ret (Far L); former USA
CPT Donn Weaver (5th from L); COL Steve Bond, USA Ret (3rd from R) Cape
Canaveral Chapter President; and LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret (Far R).*

MOAACC Authors Book Fair

A luncheon was held Tuesday, September 21 at the Tides Club on Patrick Space Force Base. Instead of the usual featured speaker, this one was a “Meet the Authors Book Fair”. Seven MOAACC members, who had written and published books and are members of the MOAACC Authors League, spoke about themselves and about their books. They also brought copies of their books for sale, and signed them for members who wished to purchase one for themselves or as gifts.



Tony Deane



*L-R: Robert Faulkender,
Jeanne Weaver, Joe Oblack,
Dan Wilson, Lee Boyland and
wife Vista Boyland.*

Tampa Chapter

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret), Editor, The Retrospect

Operation Helping Hand (Op HH) Op HH on the Way to 200th Monthly Dinner

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Griffin, US Army, Retired, Chairman of Operation Helping Hand, presented the Op HH Obelisk to Major David Arthur of the Hillsborough County Sheriffs' Office. The HCSO sponsored the September 2021 Op HH Dinner at Embassy Suites on the USF Campus in Tampa, Florida.

Every month, since May of 2004, Op HH Dinners honor the wounded and injured which were held in the Heroes Café at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida. Almost 350 supporters have attended these dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Op HH Dinners were put on hold up to and including August 2021. During this pandemic period Op HH provided, as requested by the JAHVH, round trip flights for family members and financial support for the patients and or their families.

In August 2021, Griffin proudly announced that the monthly Op HH Dinners would resume in September at the Embassy Suites on the University of South Florida Campus in Tampa. Due to the Covid protocols the dinners were not able to continue at the JAHVH.

The September dinner was a great success with almost 80 supporters attending the first Op HH dinner in some 18 months. This coming October's dinner at the Embassy Suites will be the 192nd Op HH Dinner. Dinner sponsors have reserved dinners thru next March and November 2022. Individuals and corporations are invited to sponsor the other Op HH dinners which are not yet reserved.

With the VA Hospital patients and staff unable to participate due to the COVID-19 protocols, we will continue our dinners to honor them and hope they will be able to join us later on," stated Griffin.

Op HH was initiated by members of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).



Lieutenant Colonel Jim Griffin, US Army, Retired, Chairman of Operation Helping Hand, presented the Op HH Obelisk to Major David Arthur of the Hillsborough County Sheriffs' Office. The HCSO sponsored the September 2021 Op HH Dinner at Embassy Suites on the USF Campus in Tampa, Florida.

Citrus County Chapter

By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), Membership Director, Citrus County Chapter

Veterans In The Classroom – Sign Up To Educate Children About Military Service To Our Nation!

The Veterans In The Classroom (VITC) program needs Veterans to give presentations about their military service to Citrus County school children between Nov 1st and November 10th of this year. The VITC program has been in place for over 20 years. Since the VITC's inception, the Citrus County school district has been a strong advocate for the program. The VITC is one of the many events of Veterans Appreciation Week honoring our county's Veterans.

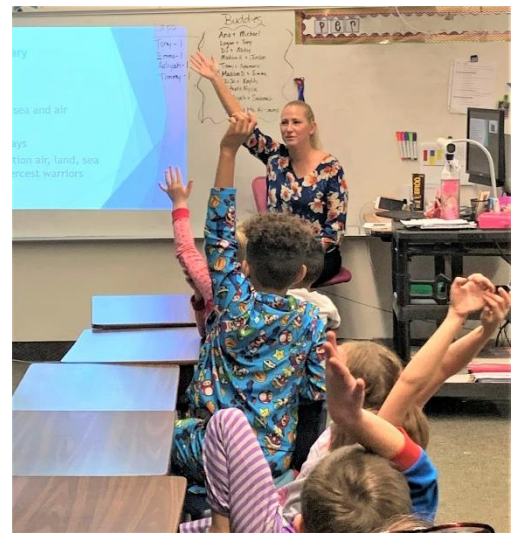
The VITC program is managed by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County chapter. COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), himself a 39 year veteran, is the current VITC program manager. He states, "Since 2019, we have lost over 20% of our Veteran presenters due to illness, death or moving out of the county. In a county with nearly 20,000 Veterans, we should have a lot more than the 60 Veterans on our current contact list. We need to get the message out there that we need Veterans to step up to this mission."

COL Bodenheim started digitizing the process of matching Veteran and teacher requests. All Veterans who want to be presenters, even if they presented in in the past, will need to register online for the VITC program. When registering, a description of the VITC program appears, along with photos of presenters in previous years. In the registration process, Veterans will be asked to give a brief description of their military acquired skills. COL Bodenheim states, " I have teachers requesting cooks, band players, helicopter pilots, accountants or foreign language speaking Veterans. The digital registration process will permit me to match more closely the Veteran's skills to a teacher request."

To register for the VITC, go to the Citrus County school district website at: <https://www.citruschools.org/home> . Scroll down and click the "Veterans in the Classroom" flag icon. Read about the VITC and complete the registration process.



Army Veteran Mark Bodenheim shows the digital VITC registration system where Veterans can register using a computer or smartphone.



Marine Corps Veteran Sunshine Arnold gives a 2019 VITC program presentation to 2nd grade students at Hernando Elementary School.

And further from the Citrus County Chapter ...



Former LTC Army surgeon and Special Forces Officer, Dr. William Dixon (left), is presented a letter of appreciation by the MOAA Citrus County Chapter president, CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret) for Dr. Dixon's Sept 9th, 2021 presentation about the proposed Citrus County Veterans Village.

Attendees listen to Dr. Dixon's presentation during the September 9th Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter sponsored speaker event, at the American Legion Post 155 in Crystal River. Dr. Dixon presented facts, a timeline and answered questions about the proposed Veterans Village assisted living facility.



Indian River Chapter

Lt Col Carroll Oates, 1st vice president Indian River Chapter MOAA

The MOAA Indian River Chapter took the lead early this calendar year in the creation of a WW1 Monument at the Vero Beach Memorial Sanctuary Island. The Chapter will host the unveiling of the "Doughboy" Statue on Veterans Day, November 11, 2021. Col. Carl Halcomb USAF (Ret) and Col. Michael Discipio USMC (Ret) headed the mission for the Chapter.

IRC-MOAA has just taken the lead in managing a WW2 Monument on the Island. It will be a multi-year project that includes raising more than \$100,000 in donations and grants. COL Anthony Young USA (Ret) will head a team from IRC-MOAA and other participating Indian River County military organizations.



The WWI Monument Project team next to the pedestal for the American Doughboy statue that will be installed at the top of the monument in the middle of October. (L-R) John Matthews, a member of The Marine Corps League, and MOAA members, Col Michael Di Scipio (USMC-Ret) and Col Carlos Halcomb (USAF-Ret).





LTS, Inc. has Opportunities for Long Term, Seasonal Employment

Positions Available:

Leak Testing Specialists, Inc. (LTS) has well-paid opportunities for long term (yearly), seasonal employment that is well suited to motivated, early-retired persons or others who are available for employment in the late spring, summer, and/or early fall of the year.

About Leak Testing Specialists, Inc.:

Since 1995, Leak Testing Specialists, Inc. (LTS) has been a leader in high sensitivity leak testing for the nuclear power industry. Due to ongoing growth of our business, LTS is seeking additional personnel for long term, seasonal (part year) employment positions.

Qualifications:

During the initial employment period, LTS provides paid training and technical development that equips the employee to perform this work effectively. This initial employment, training, and qualification are provided at the LTS, Inc. facilities in Orlando and Merritt Island, Florida.

Pre-requisites:

LTS, Inc. personnel are required to maintain qualification for access to the controlled-access areas of the nuclear powerplants. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Nuclear utilities security evaluation. This is somewhat similar to a government clearance.
2. Physical capability required for admission to the controlled areas of the nuclear powerplant.

Location:

LTS's Long Term, Seasonal employees live in many different parts of the United States. Although the LTS, Inc. facilities are located in Orlando and Merritt Island, Florida, there is opportunity for personnel who live in other locations. All of these positions involve travel. LTS has several types of travel opportunities:

1. Weekly travel positions. The typical workweek for these positions includes three nights away from home.
2. Project assignment opportunities. These positions typically involve assignment to a nuclear powerplant or other location for periods of six weeks to six months.

Positions Available:

LTS is seeking to add personnel for the following positions:

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 42 Chapters with nearly 5,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA's largest Councils. MOAA has a membership of over 380,000 members in all 50 States.

The FCOC's primary communication vehicles are our bi-monthly publication, *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ* and our Website www.MOAAFL.org Ads run for one year.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* is distributed electronically to all our chapters, MOAA Headquarters in Virginia, and our influential contacts across the state of Florida.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* provides a unique forum for businesses to reach a select segment of the population. The membership is patriotic and professional. We encourage your business to reach out to our members by advertising in *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ*.

In appreciation of Businesses that also support the FCOC Annual Convention with Ads in the Convention Souvenir Program Book within the last year the FCOC offers a discount for the same size Ad shown on the following Order Form.

Thank you!

FCOC

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Submitting Articles and Pictures for *The Communiqué*

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best (Ariel 12). You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter. PDF files can also be used but without photos.

Pictures should have a .jpg extension. If you are sending pictures from your chapter, please include the chapter name and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers.

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Randy Fiebrandt
rfebs1953@gmail.com



The Council Communiqué ADVERTISING ORDER FORM



Size of Ad	Per Issue	Annual Placement
QuarterPage (4"Hx3.5"W)	\$ 75	\$ 300 (Save \$150)
Half Page (8" H x 3.5" W) or (4" H x 7.5 W)	\$150	\$ 600 (Save \$300)
Full Page (9.625" x 7.5" W)	\$300	\$1,200 (Save \$600)

Size of Ad: _____ / # of Placements: _____ OR Annual: _____

Notes: Annual is from Jan-Dec; six (6) issues published electronically on the 10th of the even month. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be at pro-rated annual rate for remaining issues. Copy due dates for 2020 are: the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

(Ad placement in printed Annual Convention Program (June) is handled separately by Convention Committee; POC's listed under Committee Chairs on last page of Communiqué)

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- Ad copy must be submitted by the first of the month of the month of publication; i.e. Feb 1 for the January-February edition. Please notify the Council Vice President in advance if you plan to change the ad copy. Please address questions to Pat Kluever at (540) 775-4955 or at "vpfcoc@gmail.com"

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PANAMA CITY
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Area: South West
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Military Officers Association of America



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The
Communiqué
is on the web:
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The ***Council Communiqué*** is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC), Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April, June, August, October, and December. MOAA, it's Councils and Chapters are non-partisan organizations. The Communiqué is intended for wide distribution within the FCOC including Chapter Leaders and all Chapter Members in Florida.

A current issue of ***The Council Communiqué*** can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: <http://www.moaafi.org/>, drop down menu Events/News. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of FCOC or the MOAA.