Well the summer season has ended and the fall season has begun. It started out with a well-attended Flag Mess with a very interesting program about the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens by the secretary, Marlene Hofer, of the Gardens. We were honored to have COL Mike Borders, USA-Ret and his wife, Diana, attend the dinner. Mike just moved to Sebring two years ago where he was instrumental in reviving the Central Florida Chapter after it had been disbanded. Since then he has become their President and has been elected as the Vice President of the Florida Council of Chapter Southwest Region and is the Membership chairperson for the region. Quite an accomplishment in two years. It was also good to see many of our members who had spent the summer months up north returning to south Florida and attending the Flag Mess. There were also several other guests of the members at the Flag Mess.

October should prove to be a very active month for the Chapter starting with the BOD meeting on the 13th. The big event will be the USMC Band Concert at 3 PM on Sunday, October 16th. The concert tickets issued by the Event Center went quickly but we still have a few tickets left for the members. They can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Chapter Post Office box. We will be limiting the remaining tickets to 2 tickets per member. Please note that the Flag Mess has been moved up one week to October 24th so it will not conflict with Halloween. This means you will need to get your reservations in a week earlier than usual.

Another big event this month will be the Florida International Airshow on October 22nd and 23rd. Note that this is different than past years when the airshow was held in early spring when the snowbirds were here. This year the board decided to have a booth at the airshow to inform people about MOAA and the Chapter, and possibly recruit new members. We will be needing some members to volunteer to man the booth these two days. Volunteers will be asked to work for 4 to 6 hours the days they work. Passes to the airshow will be provided to any volunteers. Contact me if you would be willing to volunteer.

The last item I would like to address is the election of directors for the 2017-2018 years. There are three directors that are finishing their terms of office so three directors will need to be elected for 2017-2018. A nominating committee will select a slate from the board and at the Flag Mess additional nominations will be taken from the floor. At the November Flag Mess, the new board members for 2017-2018 will be elected. Also Ron Olsen has asked to be replaced as the Chapter Treasurer. After 18 years Ron has decided it is time to step down. Ron has done a superb job over those years as the treasurer and his presence will be greatly missed on the board of directors. We also still have a need for a Membership Secretary. It’s a go getter job that needs someone with a car salesman attitude to recruit new members and some computer skills, especially in the MS Word and Excel areas. I’m sure there must be someone in the Chapter that fills these skills. If anyone is interested in filling any of these positions, please let me know and I will relay your name to the nominating committee.

Marilyn and I are looking forward to an interesting and eventful year for the Chapter. Frank Mazur has scheduled some really interesting programs for the Flag Mess and Buz Bisbano is working hard at getting bands for our yearly concerts. Hope to see all of you at the upcoming band concert and at future Flag Messes.

Regards - Jim Dundas
Bruce Laishley

Bruce is a dedicated and successful businessman in Charlotte County. He has made many contributions in promoting a good business climate here. He’s developed several businesses and is one of the larger private employers in the County. Bruce was instrumental in bringing Cheney Brothers to Charlotte County and was motivated to get them to better serve his restaurants. Since volume was key for Cheney Brothers to justify expanding here, Bruce was successful in garnering more business for them to justify their investment in our area. He is a member of the Economic Development working group in the County and has developed 400 acres of property located near the airport into an industrial park. He understands the need for job creation and has a good perspective of what can be achieved with the resources available to improve the quality of life in Charlotte County. Frank Mazur

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- **Graphics** — All Muster newsletter graphics contain embedded web links
- **Board Meeting Notice** — The next Board of Directors’ meetings are Thursday, 13 October and 10 November 2016 at 1700 hours (5 PM), at the Isles Yacht Club Board Room. Board members and committee chairs are required to attend. Members are welcome.
- **Membership** — Know someone who was a military officer but not a member of CHCMOA and MOAA? **ASK THEM TO JOIN** . Contact Jim Dundas with their name. Membership is 155 paid members; 0 unpaid members; 7 new members; 10 members not renewing; 2 members who have moved away; and 3 deceased members.
- **CHCMOA Name Badges** — If you would like a CHCMOA Nametag / Badge contact Jon Shaffer at 979-8278 or email him. The cost for a: basic name badge is $10; basic name badge with service, rank, & status is $11; Life Member name badge with service, rank, and status is $12. A magnetic clasps is included at the stated prices. Shipping is extra at $2.95 per shipment. Prices subject to change.
- **Military ID Card Information** — MacDill AFB (Site ID 101435), Telephone: (813) 828-6673; Coast Guard Sector, St. Petersburg (Site ID 174794), Telephone (727) 824-7560. Use the RAPIDS Site Locator [https://www.dmde.osd.mil/ral/app/site](https://www.dmde.osd.mil/ral/app/site), or use [https://rapids-appointments.dmde.osd.mil](https://rapids-appointments.dmde.osd.mil)(use Site IDs for online scheduling, address, & directions or call). **APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED**
- **CHC MOAA Fund** Help us raise funds at Bingo Trail (1700 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte – on US 41 between Cochran and Murdock). Our chapter has earned a significant amount of money for our Scholarship Program. We need volunteers to count cash for game winners 3 times per month. Volunteers can get free nonalcoholic drinks, purchase food for half price during their shift, and return to play Bingo for half price. We need help as shown below and in the following months since this is a year round project. Thanks to our volunteers for the month of September Larry Ondecker and George Chamberlain. If you have not done a turn already, please consider volunteering. Contact George Chamberlain at (904) 477-4959 or [gac1982@hotmail.com](mailto:gac1982@hotmail.com). The next few months dates are:

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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>6:15 PM to 9:30 PM</td>
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<td>October 12 — Open</td>
<td>October 8 &amp; 22 — Filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9 — Open</td>
<td>November 5 &amp; 19 — Filled</td>
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<td>December 14 — Open</td>
<td>December 10 — Filled</td>
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**SUNSHINE**

Do you know of anyone in need of “Sunshine”? Please Send Or Call The Information To Mavis English at (941) 639-3268.
I’ve written about Scams, Identity Theft, Phishing, etc. a number of times in the past, but I’ve never gotten much feedback from Muster readers about these columns, so I don’t know whether or not you find them useful. If you have any comments or questions or if there’s a subject you’d like me to write about, please let me know. I’d like for my columns to be both interesting and useful, if possible.

1.) First, to sort of sum things up: Be wary of any request for personal information you get by email, phone, snail mail, or sometimes even in person. If you aren’t absolutely sure the request is legitimate, don’t proceed. For example, I frequently get an email from supposedly a family member with a text message saying simply, “You may find this interesting”, and then a website address. Don’t click on the website! Exit the email immediately and destroy the message or move it to your Spam folder. Second, learn more about Scams et al., so you’re better prepared to defend yourself. The column in the Charlotte Sun by David Morris is an interesting resource and he often includes useful references where you can learn more about particular subjects. Another major resource which I am still studying is a website called Scambusters, which has been around since 1994 (www.scambusters.org). It has a wealth of information about a huge variety of subjects. Third, if you do get scammed, report it immediately. The Sheriff’s Office is the best place to start.

2.) Now I want to say a little about Community Service. Depending on the reaction I get, I may write more about it in the future. Most of us in CHCMOAA are retired. All the evidence says that being active in retirement is important for one’s health, happiness, and longevity. Spending all one’s time on the golf course is not enough for most people. I’ve got nothing against golf (or Tennis, Pickleball, or whatever). I used to play the golf course a lot before my accident 6 years ago. What you need, in addition to golf et al., is something that “exercises the senses” as well – the mind, the heart, the emotions (in a positive way, of course). And that’s where Community Service comes in. You can do as much or as little of it as you wish. The Community Service organization(s) you choose to join would be very grateful for and appreciative of your membership/participation. And there’s a huge variety of different Community Service organizations here in Charlotte County, such that just about any interest of yours could be met. If you have a passion for the arts, there are probably a couple hundred different arts organizations here. Then there’s Habitat for Humanity, the Homeless Coalition, C.A.R.E., Boys and Girls Club, The Military Heritage Museum. I could go on and on. Look in the Charlotte Sun for “Community News Briefs”. But I urge you to get involved – for your own good and the good of the community!
A number of years ago, in the movie Ground Hog Day, Bill Murray, the star, was constantly forced to relive Ground Hog Day in Punxsutawney, PA. This happened because of his poor attitude towards people and life in general. No matter how he varied his routine, trying to break the loop, he awoke every morning to another rerun of Groundhog Day. With no obvious way out—and apparently nothing to lose—he passes the endless, identical days with drunken binges and reckless adventures. At last, our hero realizes that the daily repetition, and his intimate knowledge of every detail of the day's events, can be put to constructive use. He begins to re-examine his life and priorities. After a lifetime of self-absorption, he begins selflessly addressing the needs of others and finally escapes from Ground Hog Day.

In a sense, I think we are suffering from the federal government’s “Ground Hog Day” syndrome. We, as citizens, must escape (change the dynamic) our governmental Ground Hog Day nightmare. We must understand that insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome. Every month for the last several years, I have essentially written repetitive columns about the same legislative issues facing the military community and by extension, the country at large. As of this writing, we are faced with an eighth straight failure, by Congress, to pass a timely defense appropriations bill. Once again undermining current and future readiness and forcing the use of a continuing resolution (CR). The short-term CR budget deals cap spending at the previous year's levels and bar any new initiatives, wastes money and blocks essential planning. Next year for the FY 18 appropriations bill, without new legislation, sequestration returns forcing further draw downs in end strengths and increases the risk of poorly equipped and trained service members going in harms way.

Both the President and many members of Congress profess to acknowledge the need to repeal the Budget Control Act of 2011 and its’ sequestration caps. However, like the Defense Appropriations bill they seem either unable or unwilling to take the actions they as leaders profound as necessary. This lassitude, upon reflection, is readily apparent, in my opinion, in all other legislative areas as well. The most recent Zika Virus legislation is an illustrative example. The country when confronted with a deadly virus should expect Congress and the President to take immediate and effective action. It is their responsibility to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people. This, as of today, has not happened. Congress was and is absorbed with how to use a crisis to further various individual agendas and programs and not acting on a major medical crisis. Imagine how they might react to a terrorist attack that unleashed a hemorrhagic virus in the country.

It is no wonder that the approval rating for Congress, although edging upwards, has remained below 20% for years. It is our responsibility to hold our Executive and Legislative branch representatives accountable. The seemingly dysfunctional inability for them to reach an agreement on anything is reprehensible at best. Along with the correspondence we send them about legislative issues, November 8, 2016, Election Day is our opportunity to send them a message of support or disapproval for their actions. Your vote carries a message. Hopefully, the outcome will be strong leadership, civil discourse, and acceptable compromises that result in reasonable, effective and well-funded legislative programs.

All of us must carefully analyze what is being said by the Presidential and Congressional candidates. We must not take what is said at face value either by them or the news media. Check for facts versus fictions, half-truths, prevarications, and outright lies. This election is critical to the strength and direction of our nation for several decades to come. Abraham Lincoln, at Gettysburg, said “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”. As such, it is up to all of us to choose our country’s direction; not lobbyists, PACs, Super PACs and powerful politicians with personal agendas. It is time “we the people” act and take back our institutions to ensure our countries future.

Candidates and Their Platforms.

When running for an elective office, whether it is for President of the United States or a county row office, voters have a right to expect the candidates to provide them with information about themselves and their positions. This information, known as a platform, lists the values and actions that are supported by a political party or individual candidate. The following links are list of all of the major Presidential candidates and Party Committees with their related websites.

Hillary Clinton (D): [https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/](https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/)
Democratic Party: [http://www.democrats.org/](http://www.democrats.org/)
Donald Trump (R)  [https://www.donaldjtrump.com/positions](https://www.donaldjtrump.com/positions)
Republican National Committee: [https://www.gop.com/platform/](https://www.gop.com/platform/)
Gary Earl Johnson (L): [https://www.johnsonweld.com/](https://www.johnsonweld.com/)

As such, it is up to all of us to choose our country’s direction; not lobbyists, PACs, Super PACs and powerful politicians with personal agendas. It is time “we the people” act and take back our institutions to ensure our countries future.

“All Politics Is Local” Tip O’Neil

Find Elected Representatives (state & federal) [http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml)

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<th>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAJ Jon Shaffer USA (Ret)</td>
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<td>Ground Hog Day</td>
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MUSTER  CHARLOTTE HARBOR CHAPTER  Page 4
**THE FLAG MESS**  
Monday, October 24, 2016

**LOCATION**  
TWIN ISLES COUNTRY CLUB  
301 Madrid Blvd.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**MENU**  
Carved Beef Tenderloin  
With a wild Mushroom Demi Glaze  
Pan Seared Corvina  
With a Shrimp Cardinal Sauce  
Chicken Cordon Blue

All entrees served with Sweet Potatoes and Squash Medley  
Garden Salad with Rolls & Butter  
Coffee and Tea Service

Dessert – Pecan Pie à la Mode  
$26.00

**Dress**  
Gentlemen and Ladies informal dress.

**Times**  
1800 (6:00 PM) Social  
1830 (6:30 PM) Dinner  
2000 (8:00 PM) Program

**RESERVATIONS**  
(Reservations need to be received no later than Wednesday, October 19, 2016; please allow two days after mailing for delivery)

Name(s)___________________________

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<th>CHOICES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beef Tenderloin</td>
<td>Carved Beef Tenderloin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seared Corvina</td>
<td>Pan Seared Corvina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Cordon Blue</td>
<td>Chicken Cordon Blue</td>
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Scholarship Fund_______________________  
Band Fund ____________________________  
TOTAL ENCLOSED $________________

Mail to:  
CHCMOAA Dinner  
P.O. Box 511851  
Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-1851

Please make all payments by checkPayable to  
CHCMOAA

**Note:** Food is ordered according to reservations.  
Without reservations, we may have difficulty in accommodating you.  
**NO GUARANTEES FOR RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 12:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2016.**

**Note:** For Late Reservations to the dinner after October 19, 2016 call: Jon Shaffer @ (941) 979-8278 or email Jon at chcmoaa@yahoo.com

**Note:** Persons with reservations, who are then unable to attend, should call Jon Shaffer @ (941) 979-8278 to cancel by Thursday Afternoon, October 20th (thus allowing time for adjustments and possible credit).  
The Twin Isles’ CC policy is that we will have to pay for the total number of reservations that we call in on Thursday unless we make any cancellations prior to Friday afternoon.

**Useful Internet Links & Phone Numbers**

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<th>Link</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.floridavets.org/">www.floridavets.org/</a></td>
<td>Florida Department of Veteran Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a></td>
<td>Veterans Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/veteran/">http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/veteran/</a></td>
<td>Charlotte County Veterans Services</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.tricare.mil">www.tricare.mil</a></td>
<td>TRICARE for Life</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.military-pay.defense.gov/Benefits/SurvivorBenefitProgram.aspx">www.military-pay.defense.gov/Benefits/SurvivorBenefitProgram.aspx</a></td>
<td>DOD Benefits (Survivor Benefit Plan)</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/">https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/</a></td>
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The Muster is published, except for December, July, and August by the Charlotte Harbor Chapter of the Military Officer’s Association of America (MOAA) (FL31) Inc., P.O. Box 511851, Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-1851. Email: chcmoaa@comcast.net  
The chapter is an IRS 501(C)(19) non-profit, tax-exempt organization affiliated with National MOAA and the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA, but not associated with the Department of Defense. The chapter is non-partisan and the contents of the Muster articles are the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily those of the National MOAA, Florida Council of Chapters, the Charlotte Harbor Chapter (FL31), or the Department of Defense.  
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**2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

**_______ NEW MEMBERSHIP or _______ RENEWAL**

CHARLOTTE HARBOR CHAPTER

The Military Officers Association of America

A local organization, comprised of retired, regular, reserve, and former officers of the uniformed services. Dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the best interests of Our Country, its uniformed services, our members, their dependents, and their survivors, in every proper manner. Chapter members are required to have and maintain a national MOAA membership.

Annual Dues are $15.00 ($7.50 for Surviving Spouse/Auxiliary Members)

Chapter dues are payable in advance. Please enclose your check

Make Checks payable to: Charlotte Harbor Chapter, MOAA (CHCMOAA)

Please complete the following for our records and mail to:

CHCMOAA Membership

P.O. Box 511851

Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-1851

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<th>Last Name</th>
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Chapter Dues (Reg-$15/Aux-$7.50) $__________

Scholarship Donation $__________

For Band Fund $__________

Total Enclosed $__________

Signature

National MOAA Number

Email Address

PLEASE FILL IN ALL BLANKS. THIS IS HOW WE UPDATE THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER AND THE CHAPTER HANDBOOK