

The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America

December 2022 Issue 173





President's Message

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

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FCoC Information, Chapters, Board &

Submit Input to: Randall Fiebrandt, CDR, USCG (Ret) - Editor: rfiebs1953@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

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Season's Greetings! Mary and I hope you each had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family, and we wish you a Very Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah in 2022 and a healthy, safe and Happy New Year in 2023!

Thank You! Mary and I want to thank the President's and members of the four Chapters we visited since the October edition of the Communique; 17 October Tallahassee Chapter with President Cheryl Walters, with her leaders and at a membership dinner where she welcomed 6 new members: 18 October Northwest Chapter with President Mike Griffith, future President Fran Hendricks and Board members at a leaders lunch: 20 October Pensacola Chapter with President Dean Kirschner and MOAA leader Captain Frank Michaels at a leader's meeting and a members dinner at the beautiful Pensacola Yacht Club; and most recently at Citrus Hills Golf Club with President Peter Tan at a member's dinner where Peter introduced 2 new members and I was able to swap

stories with a great bunch of military aviators. During dinner we looked out windows at the largest Tiki Bar I have ever seen, and survived the world's most decadent dark chocolate cake served with chocolate ice cream (actually still recovering). Our sincere Thanks to each of you for your hospitality and friendship while mixing business, member recognition and camaraderie. Mary and I remain amazed at the personal dedication of our MOAA cadre as we continue to honor and support those who served. and inspire those who will come after us to protect and serve. Well Done Shipmates! Bravo Zulu!

Leadership Change: Many Thanks to Benny & Janet Blackshire who have served as Florida West Central's Area Vice President (AVP) since 2019. I know they will continue to be active in the Sun City Center Chapter. On 3 December 2022 I appointed COL Charles Dalcourt, USA (Ret) as West Central AVP. Thank You Charles for stepping up, and I look forward to work with you and Mildred (Millie-D) during the rest of my tenure as Florida Council President. Welcome Aboard!

Florida Chapter Assessments: Our initial round of Chapter assessments

will be complete by the January 2023 Leadership and Training Seminar with all AVPs reporting on area Chapter status at the 7 January Board meeting in Orlando. Based on those assessments and our 2023 Council budget, Florida Council leadership will develop a plan for investment of resources and funds to assist selected Chapters to improve organization health. The plan will be briefed at a Board meeting at the May 2023 St Augustine Convention, and with the Board's approval will be implemented during the next 9 to 12 months. In concert with this effort to improve Chapter health,

Vice President Steve Bond is leading the Retention and Recruiting Campaign (RRC) to bring MOAA national resources to bear in recruiting new Chapter members throughout the state of Florida. Steve provides more detail in his article, which is next in this edition of Communique.

Consequences of the Assessment Program:

With limited Council resources budgeted to assist selected Chapter in need, I am asking all Chapters who are financially capable to fund their own recruiting and training needs through the Florida convention 2024.

With Chapter assessments ongoing and a program for assistance in planning, Florida Council will not support unilateral efforts by any Florida Chapter to merge, close or otherwise realign until further notice.

Effective Chapter leaders are critical to Chapter health. If a Chapter cannot send a new leader(s) to 6-7 January 2023 training event in Orlando due to lack of funding, please talk with your AVP about potential Council support to attend this event.

January 2023 in Orlando:

Sign up NOW - seats are filling fast - our initial list of registrants will be sent to the Rosen Center to guarantee

rooms on 15 December. After that date rooms are assigned on a space-available basis and this is a busy time for hotels in Orlando! The absolute cutoff for adding rooms or cancelling your registration with reimbursement is **Noon on Friday 30 December 2022.**



At the annual Pete's Bar Thanksgiving Celebration in Neptune Beach with the Clydesdales.

May 2023 in St Augustine:

Planning with Ancient City Chapter for our 2023 convention at World Golf Village in St Augustine will wrap up next week. The Renaissance hotel is an outstanding venue, and the team has an impressive slate of events planned including enactors (pirates!), bourbon tasting, tours of the city, a charity golf tournament at the renowned "Slammer & Squire" golf course, a formal dining out and many others. We plan to open registration for that event on the Council website on 9 January 2023. Save 18-21 May 2023 on your calendar for this "must attend" event.

Safety First over the Holidays Shipmates - We want to see you in Orlando 6-7 January 2023!! Best Regards,

Pat K.





Vice President's Message

COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret)

December is here and I wish all of you a joyous and festive Holiday Season! This also means we are less than one month away from our Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando. The seminar is important to train chapter leaders and there are only a few days

remaining to register. Make sure your chapter is represented there! One of the important things we will do in Orlando is discuss our ongoing State-wide Membership Campaign and outline the next steps to grow our membership and make an even larger impact in the communities we serve. The charts outlining the Membership Campaign are posted on the Council's Website at https://www.moaafl.org/Membership.aspx. If you have new chapter leadership for the New Year, make sure they are up to speed with the Membership Campaign efforts.

There is good news and not so good news to report on our campaign progress so far this year. The good news is that as of the end of November, we have brought in over 500 new chapter members this year as reported to MOAA, up from 418 last year! However, the bad news is only 24 of our 39 chapters have reported recruiting new members. As part of the Membership Campaign, the Council's Area Vice Presidents are conducting Chapter Heath Assessments to determine where the Council can assist and apply resources to help achieve our objectives. Meanwhile, we are working with MOAA to assist with membership drives and stimulate recruiting efforts. Here is our plan:

- The January edition of MOAA's Military Officer Magazine will have a
 "drop out" card to encourage non-chapter MOAA members to join a
 chapter. The card will include why and how to go about joining a
 chapter. If you know of a MOAA member that is not a member of a
 chapter, give them your card and tell them why they should join your
 chapter!
- At the Council-level, we will ask for a MOAA "email blast" to all non-chapter MOAA members residing in the State. The email will include why and how to join a Florida chapter, information about our organization including the links to the council website (www.MOAAFL.org), our newsletter--The Council Communique, and information on the State Convention in St. Augustine, May 19th-21st. We expect the email will be sent in February.

NOTABLE DATES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

December 1st - Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday

December 7th - National Pearl Harbor Day

December 10th – Army – Navy Football

December 13th - US National Guard Birthday

December 17th - Wreaths across America (Click for more info)



December 20th - US Space Force Birthday

December 28th - Anniversary of the Army

Jan 15th 1943 – The world's largest office building, The Pentagon, is dedicated in Arlington, Virginia.

January 16th - Martin Luther King Day





 After the MOAA statewide email blast, we recommend all chapters request MOAA National do a similar notification to non-chapter MOAA members residing in your chapter's area. The invitation will need to include how to join your chapter, the link to your chapter website, and the <u>Date, Time, and Place of an Event</u> of your Chapter choosing (e.g., a Dinner, Luncheon, Officers Call, etc.) hosted by your Chapter. Timing will vary by chapter, but we recommend this to start in the Spring of 2023.

At the January Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando, we will discuss the plan further. The purpose of the Membership Campaign is to grow our membership, build strong chapters to engage in our communities, while taking care of our members.

Happy Holidays and I look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando! If you have questions or comments, contact me at vpfcoc@gmail.com.

MOAA National Convention

MOAA leaders from across the nation met in Kansas City, Missouri at the MOAA National Convention and Annual Meeting of the Membership, October 27th to 29th. At the gathering, MOAA announced a change of leadership with Gen Gary North, USAF (Ret), becoming MOAA's Chairman of the Board, and Lt Gen "B.K." Kelly, USAF (Ret), announced as the new President and CEO of the association when Lt Gen Atkins, USAF (Ret), steps down at the end of the year. Florida was well represented with Council President CDR Pat Kluever, USN (Ret), leading the Florida Delegation. During the proceedings, MOAA representatives noted that Florida was responsible for sending the most "Take Action" Quorum messages to our legislators of any State. Florida also received the most Level of Excellence (LOE) Awards of any State, with 23 total LOE awards, including the Council receiving the Five Star Excellence Award.

For more information on the Convention and to view MOAA's "Year in Review" Video see https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/videos/





Presentation of Farewell Gift to Lt Gen Atkins by Council President Pat Kluever and the Florida Delegation at MOAA Convention in appreciation for his support.



CDR Pat Kluever receives the Five Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award from Lt Gen Atkins and Gen Skip Sharpe at MOAA Convention. Florida received 23 LOE awards at the Convention, more than any other State.



Florida Delegation gathers at the Convention following LOE award presentations.

WHEN SHEET STATES

- 29 DEC 2022 MOAA Roundtable (Virtual) 1900 EOY Review
- MOAA Scholarship application 1 NOV 22 to 1 MAR 23
- MOAA Foundation Grant 1 DEC 22 to 28 FEB 23
- MOAA Community Outreach (USAA) 1 DEC to depletion
- 6-7 JAN 2023 Leadership Training Seminar at the Rosen Center in Orlando. All Chapters are expected to send representatives from their leadership team for critical training, for the FCoC Board meeting. Register at www.moaafl.org.
- AMBA (Mercer) Ad Program Application 1 JAN to 31 MAY 23
- Harris Comm. Award Applications Due 1 FEB 23
- Advocacy in Action (AiA) in DC Week of 23 APR 23
- Level of Excellence (LOE) Applications Due 1 MAY 23
- 18-21 MAY 2023 FCoC Convention, St Augustine featuring a charity golf tournament at World Golf Village, and opportunities to "Explore the Ancient City" - pirates, ghosts, great music and an array of attractions.
- Legislative Liaison Nominations Due 1 JUN 23
- Surviving Spouse Excellence Award Nominations Due 1 JUN 23

12 MONTH CALENDA

R

MOAA Take Action



Chaplain's Message

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

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

"Proper prior planning prevents poor performance." Every Commander

Many Christian traditions observe Advent, a liturgical season of preparation in anticipation of Christmas. The season is intended as a time of joyful preparation for the Christmas celebration and recalling the first coming or birth of Jesus.

The liturgical preparation extends well beyond decorating a tree, purchasing gifts, or finalizing the holiday meal menu. The preparation is intended to prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits for the celebration. For some Christian traditions, you will notice Advent wreaths, calendars, or devotionals during the days before Christmas.

My Advent preparation includes at least three regular annual activities: reading Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, listening to the first part of Handel's Messiah, and watching A Charlie Brown Christmas. Dickens tells a story of Christmas redemption, Handel rehearses the biblical prelude to the Nativity, and Charles Schulz reminds me about holiday simplicity and the "reason for the season."

How do you prepare your heart, mind, and spirit for your Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, or family holiday celebration and observance? What planned or intentional dimensions are always part of that preparation? What dimensions might you add or subtract this year?

May you and yours enjoy a blessed holiday season and prosperous New Year!

Question: Some of you may remember, or may have actually seen, Bob Hope's Annual USO Christmas shows on military bases around the world.

- (a) When and what was the original Bob Hope Christmas Show for the troops?
- (b) While the "show" went on nearly every year for half a century, when and where was the last Bob Hope overseas Christmas Show?

Read on in the Communique' for the answers on page 23.







Personal Affairs Col Paul Loschiavo, USMCR (Ret)

Watch out for Spoofing

Under the heading of "what-will-they-think-of-next," now you need to be worried about spoofing. What... is spoofing?

Spoofing is when you receive a call and the caller ID says it's one thing, but it's really a fraudster trying to get you to answer a call and get you to give some personal information. It happened to me about six weeks ago. I received a call from what my phone says was Citi Bank. I grew suspicious when the caller asked me for my account number. I wrote about it in this column.

Yesterday, I received another call from Citi Bank. The caller identified himself as "Dave from Citi Bank fraud." He asked me if I just did charges for \$400 and \$600 in Miami? I responded that I had not. I said that I would check my with my wife who was in the kitchen. She had not.

I told him "it's a fraud. Please block the charges and send me new cards."

He replied, "The charges were done by someone who gave his last four digits of his Social Security Number as XXXX." The numbers were mine. Uh, oh.

I said again "it's a fraud." He said that he would block the cards and overnight new cards to me. All I needed to do was give him my account number. Sound General Quarters!

I said "You tell me my account number." He replied authoritatively, "It's the rules. You must give me your account number to verify the fraud and block the charges." No. I'm not telling you anything.

I happened to be near a computer. I quickly logged onto the Citi website and called up my account. No suspicious charges.

I told him "The charges do not show in my account." He responded "it takes a while before they show. Now give me your account number or we will assume that you are a fraud. The charges will be approved!"

I hung up and dialed a different number for Citi. Once I finally got a human on the line, I explained what happened. She verified that there were no bogus charges on my account. She asked me if I would mind waiting while she got a fraud investigator on the line. I agreed. The fraud investigator came on. She texted a code to me to verify that I am not the fraud then asked me to explain what happened.



I explained the event and mentioned that this was the second time in two months that somebody tried to spoof me. She said that this is happening more often and thanked me for not falling for it. I gave her the number I received the call from and she said that they would look into it. She thanked me much for my cooperation.

We all carry cell phones that have caller ID. Like most folks, I don't answer a call unless I recognize the caller. The problem is... the bad guys know how to call you and make it appear as if they are someone else.

If you get a call from someone you don't know, be suspicious. If they ask you for your account number... just hang up. (Interesting terminology... it's been a long time since any of us actually hung up a phone...)

There is one exception... if they say that they are Santa Claus, you're allowed to give a toy list and ask that they be delivered to your grandkids Christmas Eve.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Patricia Green, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Tax Time Reminder

Near the end of the year, important papers arrive in the mail. Start a folder now. Label it. Separate tax documents and notices from bills and other communications. Store them in a safe, but handy location. You may be adding items to the folder through mid-March. By mid-January, your 4th quarter estimated payment is due.

If you receive paper mail from DFAS, below are some things you will receive:

- 1099-R, the IRS form needed to complete your tax filing,
- a special print edition of the DFAS retirement Newsletter, and
- a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) annuitant account statement which shows the change in your gross and net annuity payment.

If you have opted into electronic mail. You may access these and/or download these documents from myPay.mil.gov.

For those who fell under the SBP/DIC offset, on February 1st you will receive your full SBP payment and your full DIC payment from the VA. Finally, this offset has been eliminated.

Odds and Ends

The Army Survivor Outreach Services has a quarterly newsletter that provides information about benefits changes, program updates, and opportunities to connect with other survivors. It is named "The Survivor Link". Click https://dcsg9.army.mil/safr/sos/sos-form.html to subscribe.



Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter new Leadership for the year 2023

Chair Barbara Smith with Gail Joyce preside over the meetings which include guest speakers and an exchange of information. I will become the Membership Chairman. In November, we added 3 new members from Florida. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month via zoom. Contact me if you wish to join.

Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaisons (SSL)

I have been in contact with Jackie Mears, of Fleet Landing Chapter in JAX, and Carolyn Riordan, of Indian River Chapter in Vero. Congratulations to these women who recently were appointed as SSLs for their Chapters. They have also joined the Virtual Chapter.

If you are a new SSL or a continuing volunteer in that post, I'm here to help you. Contact me at deg06@aol.com.



Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

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

Governor Ron DeSantis Highlights Florida's Commitment to Serving State's 1.5 Million Veterans (Summary of a Press Release dated November 11th, 2022)

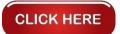
On November 11th, Governor Ron DeSantis highlighted Florida's commitment to serving the state's 1.5 million veterans through state programs and initiatives that provide resources and opportunities that help build the future success of Florida's veterans. As the nation's most veteran-friendly state, Florida's state agencies and partners offer an abundance of resources and opportunities to help veterans find meaningful employment, support their families, and contribute to their communities.

As a part of this commitment, Governor DeSantis also awarded \$1.5 million to provide transitional housing for Floridians and veterans recovering from substance abuse through the Recovery Housing Program (RHP). Assistance available through this funding includes relocation payments, rental assistance, new construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of housing facilities. For more information about the Recovery Housing Program, visit www.FloridaJobs.org/RHP.

"Florida's veterans have made countless sacrifices to protect our freedoms, and in return we are working hard to ensure they have the resources and support they need to be successful and take care of their families," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "My administration will continue to invest in our veterans in the same way that they made sacrifices to invest in the freedom of our nation."



To read this entire Press Release summarizing all of the State's initiatives,



Florida Designates 114 Purple Star Schools

Purple Star designation recognizes schools that provide extra support for children of military families

On November 15th, Governor Ron DeSantis announced 114 schools in 10 counties across the state will be designated as Florida's first class of Purple Star campuses in recognition of their support for the children of military families. Governor DeSantis made the announcement while visiting Fort Walton Beach High School in Okaloosa County, which has the highest percentage of military child enrollment of any school district in the state.

Additionally, the Department of Education (DOE) will work with Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Escambia, and Walton counties to create a first of its kind teacher leadership program at Purple Star schools to both help veterans earn their teaching certification and help other teachers learn how to best serve military families. This program will allow Purple Star schools to fill teaching positions and help qualified teachers receive their certification more quickly.

"Purple Star schools have the tools and knowledgeable faculty needed to help children of military families succeed regardless of the obstacles they face," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We also recognize that no one can better relate to these children than those who have served, which is why we are encouraging our veterans to teach at these schools and across the state."

"Congratulations to the schools that have been designated as Purple Star Schools of Distinction," said Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr. "Under Governor DeSantis, Florida has raised the bar for military-friendly education initiatives. The Purple Star program is another leap forward in ensuring that military families and students receive the support they need to be successful and the schools that serve them are recognized."

Purple Star campuses must meet certain requirements designed to support the unique needs of military children and their families as they transition into a new school and navigate a new community. Those requirements include:

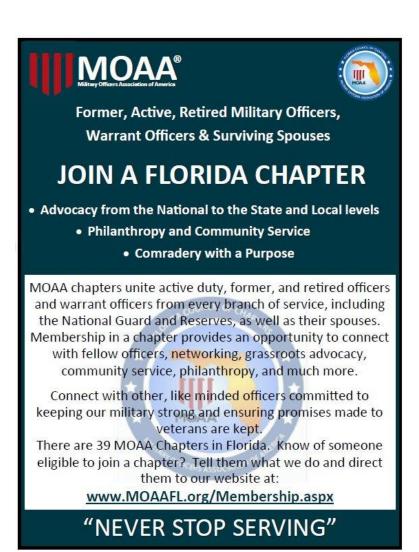
- Designating a faculty member as the military liaison to directly support families;
- Updating the school website with resources for military students and families;
- Offering a student-led transition program to assist military students in acclimating into a school:
- Expanding staff professional development training opportunities on issues relating to military students: and
- Reserving controlled, open enrollment seats for military-connected students to utilize to
 ensure school choice opportunities are available to them, regardless of the time of year
 their military transfer takes place.



The Purple Star teacher leadership program builds on legislation signed earlier this year to allow veterans with four years of military experience and an associate's degree to obtain a 5-year temporary teaching certificate while they work towards earning a bachelor's degree. Through the program, schools in Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Escambia, and Walton counties will actively recruit veterans to become teachers and then help them earn their certification directly from the school, without having to experience any delays from DOE. The program will also connect veterans with opportunities to finish their schooling at nearby colleges, getting veterans experience in the classroom and partnering veterans with mentor-teachers. To learn more about the Military Veterans

Certification Pathway

CLICK HERE







Proudly serving those who've served us all

At GEHA, we value everything veterans like you have done for our country. In fact, your service inspires us every single day. That's why everything we do is just for military retirees, federal employees and your families. Thank you.

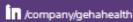
DENTAL BENEFITS FOR MILITARY RETIREES











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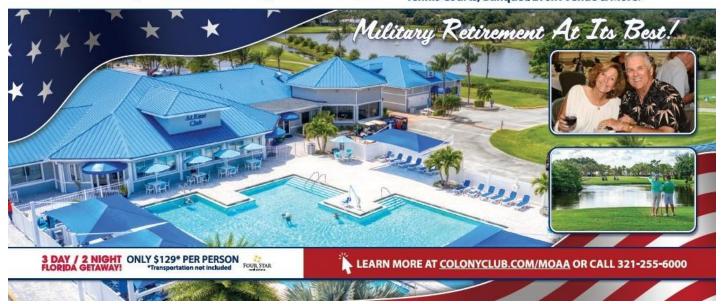






Active 55⁺Military Veterans Community in Melbourne, FL

- 2-4 Bedroom Individually Owned Homes
- Extensive Maintenance Program
- Close to Shopping, Beaches, VA Center, and Patrick SFB
- 18 Hole Par 72 Golf Course, Clubhouse, Pro Shop, Pool, Tennis Courts, Banquet/Event Venue & More!





Florida Council of Chapters "Chapter News"

Central Florida Chapter

CDR Randall Fiebrandt, USCG (Ret), Focus Editor/Communications

The MOAA Central Florida Chapter Kicks off its Veterans "Healing Through Expression" Project! By LT Col Al Schroeder, USAF Ret.

While it has taken over a year to make all the workable parts fit together, we have got it done! In December of 2021 the MOAA Central Florida Chapter Philanthropy Fund, Inc. was incorporated as a Florida 501(c)3 non-profit public charity. This allowed us more flexibility to solicit the funding we thought we would need for the Healing Through Expression project as well as scholarships funds for our ROTC program. Now, in addition to individual donors, businesses that make donations can deduct them on their tax filing.

In July, for the first time, our chapter filed for a grant. It was accepted and MOAA National gave us a \$1,000.00 grant to help us get the Healing Through Expression project started.

In June, we signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Orlando VA Healthcare System. This document sets forth the structure in which both entities will work in a mutually beneficial manner to advance and improve the health, quality of life and well-being of our Central Florida Veterans. The Orlando VA Healthcare System will help us get our word out to the Veterans who

have registered with the it and have participated in its art programs.

The project's mission is to increase awareness in both our Veteran and civilian communities of the healing powers of creative art and the creative art programs being offered by the Orlando VA Healthcare System. Once Veterans become aware of art's healing powers and what is available to them, they will be able to improve their overall



health and well-being through participation in this activity. Taking advantage of these art keys has demonstrated the opening of a new path for the renewal of hope, allowing the Veteran to reintegrate into his or her community for a potentially fuller and more productive life. We hope that these keys will allow the Veteran to pursue this alternative path, thus avoiding severe depression and possibly suicide. We believe that the process of making art will promote an increase in focus and concentration, and improve self-esteem by helping them sell their work if they desire.

Our first opportunity to work with the Orlando VA came when the Chapter donated art supplies for a program to help homeless female Veterans. Lorraine Holland, our Chapter President, attended this training session to observe and learn how we can do more to help the Orlando VA. The second opportunity came when the Chapter was invited to attend an aviation exhibit at the Orlando Science



Center in October. In five hours, we had 40 people visit our table seeking information about the Veteran "Healing Through Expression" project. The visitors ranged from a pilot for Spirit Airlines who was excited to share our information with three Veteran friends, to the wife of an older Veteran who is 80% disabled and still having issues from his injuries. This visitor thought our creative art project might benefit her husband.

On November 11 we attended the Orlando Science Center's Veterans Day program. In the time we were there, we visited with 25 interested people who took our tri-fold brochure. One of the individuals was Mr. Tom Mirek, Orlando Science Center Voting Trustee and an executive officer with Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control system. He told



Lt Col Al Schroeder, Ruth Schroeder & Franklin Welch

me that approximately 20% of their workforce is made up of Veterans they actively recruited. He expressed an interest in our program and said he would make sure our information got into the hands of the right people.

Our plans for the Veteran "Healing Through Expression" project include donating more art supplies to the VA Creative Art Program and offering Art Scholarships to Veterans who want to continue their new art journey. We also plan on helping Veteran artists sell their artwork via art shows and auctions and through our website. The project will be supported with grant money as well as sponsorships to "Healing Through Expression" events.

For more information on this project, please visit our website

https://moaacfcphilanthropyfund.org/

Cape Canaveral Chapter

Marilyn M. Sanford, MOAACC Media Relations

Capt. Erin E. Stone, MOAA's Senior Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, was a recent speaker at the Thursday morning meeting of MOAACC on November 3. Captain Stone's activities include:

- Developing relationships, strategies, and organizational programs and processes to support a healthy and vibrant affiliate system.
- Enhancing member value and facilitating impactful community service, membership growth, and legislative action on the local, state, and national level.



Lt. Col. Brian Whalen, MOAACC President; Capt. Erin Stone; Col. Steve Bond

- Ensuring the provision of effective advice, training, and assistance to volunteer leaders through multiple means.
- Fostering and enhancing cooperation and communication between and among the national board of directors, headquarters staff, and affiliated councils and chapters, with a view toward achieving mutual goals and accomplishing organizational missions.

Veterans Day Celebration at Solaris Senior Living Facility

Solaris Senior Living Center on Merritt Island held their Veterans Day Celebration on Tuesday, November 8 before Hurricane Nichole impacted some of the Veterans Day events scheduled in the area during the week. The event was open to the public and sponsored by VITAS Healthcare.

Colonel Steve Bond (US Army, Retired) gave the keynote address, and LTC Cynthia Watkins-Pishdad (US Army, Retired) sang both the National Anthem and *An American Soldier* to the assembled crowd. CW5 Mike Tucker (US Army, Retired) a VITAS Veteran's Advocate, provided the veterans in attendance a Certificate of Thanks, a VITAS Challenge Coin, and a Salute. Colonel Bond thanked the veterans and their family members for their service, and encouraged them to share their stories of service with family and friends.

The MOAACC Speakers Bureau provided speakers to over 10 Veterans Celebrations across the Space Coast over the Veterans Day week to honor veterans.



LTC Cynthia Watkins-Pishdad





Colonel Steve Bond speaks to assembled veterans and with members of the Solaris and Vitas staff

Patrick SFB Space Launch Delta 45 Quarterly Awards Ceremony

After being postponed due to Hurricane Nichole and having to switch to an outdoor facility, on November 15, the Space Force units of Space Launch Delta 45 (SLD45) finally held their quarterly Awards Ceremony to recognize some outstanding civilians and US Space Force Guardians who are very busy in supporting America's more active than ever Space Program. Several MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) members were guests at the ceremony.

Key supporters of the Unit were invited to set up tables to provide their information to the Guardians and their spouses going to and from the ceremony. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation was invited as one of the organizations. Last year the GDF provided more than \$10,000 to active-duty units and, hopefully, that number would be higher this year. The funds are used for various purposes including trophies and snacks for such ceremonies. For the November ceremony, each winner walked off with a small surf board trophy with their name and unit etched in the surface.



Joe Tichich MOAACC's USAF and USSF Liaison Officer and (R) GDF President Donn Weaver passing out GDF trifolds, golf tournament information, and MOAACC membership forms to officers who appeared interested in joining.



South Central Florida Chapter

COL Mike Borders, USA., Ret.

SOUTH CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER SUPPORTS THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET DELIVERY TO NEEDY VETERANS

For the sixth time in five years, the South Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was one of a few chapters around the nation awarded the MOAA Foundation grant in the amount of \$4,000. The MOAA Foundation grant program is an excellent source of funding, requiring a minimum of administrative effort.

As in the past, the chapter will donate the funds to support the Veterans Assistance Fund through the Highlands County Veterans Council. This fund provides food and financial assistance to needy veterans in the community. Our chapter is an active member of the County Veterans Council, with our chapter VP, Glenn West serving as Council VP—and set to become the next President. With this year's grant, the chapter has provided a total of nearly \$34,000 to the Veterans Council over the last five years. On 21 November, chapter VP Glenn West and Immediate Past President, Mike Borders, assisted in the delivery of forty Thanksgiving food baskets to the neediest of veterans from our local community. A similar effort will take place just before the Christmas holiday.



The two photos show the food baskets lined up and one of Col Mike Borders on the left and chapter VP Glenn West on the right, standing behind the baskets ready for distribution.



Tampa Chapter

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

UPDATE — 2ND ANNUAL WINTER GALA POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY!

Dear Tampa MOAA Chapter Members and Supporters of MOAA Tampa,

At the December 1st Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted unanimously to postpone the 2nd Annual Winter Gala to best serve our guests and corporate sponsors. To date, registration numbers have lagged expectations and the fixed costs of the event would unnecessarily take away from the generous donations received. We made this decision while heavily weighing our obligations to be good stewards of donated funds.

The new date is <u>Friday. February 17. 2023</u> at the same venue. Please mark your calendars to hold the date.

If you have already registered, you will receive an email no later than Monday, December 5 directly from events@moaatampa.org (Tom Kuhar) outlining your options to either carrying your reservation forward or receiving a refund.

We sincerely apologize for this change and hope you will be able to join us on the rescheduled date once it is finalized. If you have any immediate questions, please email Tom at events@moaatampa.org.

The Purpose of the Gala is to raise money in support of JROTC, scholarship awards, our transition program "Thriving after the Military" and homeless veteran outreach.

We look forward to everyone coming in February and support all our MOAA Tampa Chapter's efforts! Stay tuned for future updates via emails, *The Retrospect* and our www.moaatampa.org website.

Best Regards,

Tom Kuhar, CDR USCG (ret) Winter Gala Chair Director of Education, Training & Events







WHY? There are several events for transitioning military members, BUT none quite like this! Typical transition events and services focus on job placement, resume development, interview skills, etc. Our event goes a completely different direction...

- We focus on family, community, education, and resilience with engaging and insightful guest speakers;
- We share unique insights on healthcare, legal imperatives, finances, and other areas that help military members support themselves and their families in a positive, impactful, and long-term manner; and
- We expose you to many different ways to enjoy the opportunities available if you put down real and lasting roots in our Tampa community.

What are people saying about this event:

"Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covers these topics."

"This was an amazing day; so much info that I didn't get from my Base."

REGISTER: https://MOAA_Tampa_Thriving_Transition_Seminar.eventbrite.com

**Space is limited and personal masking is optional for this event.





















Thriving After Military Service Transitioning Veteran Event

Hosted at the
FIVE Labs Conference Center
4115 W Spruce St., Tampa
tentatively scheduled for
Tuesday, 21 February
9:00 am - 4:30 PM

FREE & OPEN TO ALL RANKS with complimentary lunch, drinks, and snacks!!!



[&]quot;Love the energy and purpose!"

Citrus County Chapter

By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), Communications Director

The Citrus County MOAA Chapter has completed the Veterans In The Classroom (VITC) program except for a few classes that were rescheduled due to the hurricane closure of the schools. The Veterans In The Classroom (VITC) program is one of the many events of Citrus County's Veterans Appreciation Week. The VITC program assigns Veterans to teachers requesting a Veteran presentation. In 2022, over 50 Veterans gave presentations about their military service to nearly 4300 students. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter is assigned the responsibility to manage the VITC program which is led by chapter member, Col Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), in cooperation with Mr. Al Balk, the Social Studies Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) for the school district."



Retired Coast Guard LCDR Veteran Mike Blaschum gives a VITC presentation to students at Crystal River Middle School.



Retired Army COL Veteran Mark Bodenheim gives a VITC presentation to a Kindergarten class at Central Ridge Elementary School.



Retired Army COL Veteran Pet Tan gives a VITC presentation to Citrus High School students in Teacher Deana Williamson's (seen in background) classes.



Veteran Air Force Inflight technician Betsy Bennett (lower right), an expert in providing Zoom presentations for the VITC program, is shown here online providing presentations to various eschool requests.

Kingdom of the Sun Chapter

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

The Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) Chapter of MOAA held their October monthly meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at the Braised Onion restaurant in Ocala, Fl. The KOS Chapter members and guests enjoyed the camaraderie and the selection of assorted menu items for the luncheon. The Chicken Parmesan and "Build Your Own Burger" were very popular menu selections. The speaker was CPT Patrick Pacalo, PhD, a member of our KOS Chapter. His topic was on the Chemical Corps. He provided a very interesting briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) threats and hazards. His briefing covered a number of talking points for Chemical and NBC/CBRN activities.

The November 3, 2022, luncheon program was the annual meeting and election of KOS Officers and our Memorial Service. President Joe Voge gave his "State of the KOS Chapter" report to those attending the annual meeting. The election of Chapter Officers for 2023/2024 was conducted, and the slate of Officers and Directors was approved. The newly elected KOS Officers and Directors will be installed at our January 5, 2023, KOS meeting. Our KOS Chaplain, LTC Carolyn Smith, USA, conducted the candle lighting Memorial

KOS MOTOS

CPT Patrick Pacalo, PhD, Speaking at the October 6, 2022. KOS Meeting.

Service. A printed program for the annual meeting provided the slate of officers and the names of those deceased KOS members for the year.



The annual KOS Christmas luncheon was held at the Braised Onion on December 1, 2022, with a 12:00 PM cocktail hour and a luncheon at 12:30 PM. The speaker for December was Ron Oppliger, Veteran Chairperson of the Friends of Marion County Veterans Park. Ron and his team member gave an excellent briefing on the changes taking place at the Veterans Park. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and don't forget our KOS Installation luncheon set for January 5, 2023, at the Braised Onion.



Answers:

(a) Hope's decades-long tradition of entertaining service members began in May 1941, when he recorded an episode of his NBC radio show, the "Pepsodent Show," during a visit to a

California naval base. While a Bob Hope show traveled throughout the Pacific during WWII, the first official Bob Hope Christmas Show that aired on radio or television, National Archives records state, were special recordings of the "Pepsodent Show" at Sawtelle Veterans' Hospital on December 24, 1946. Similarly, Navy records show that on December 23, 1947, Hope hosted a special recording of the "Pepsodent Show," at Corona Naval Hospital, California in front of a military audience.

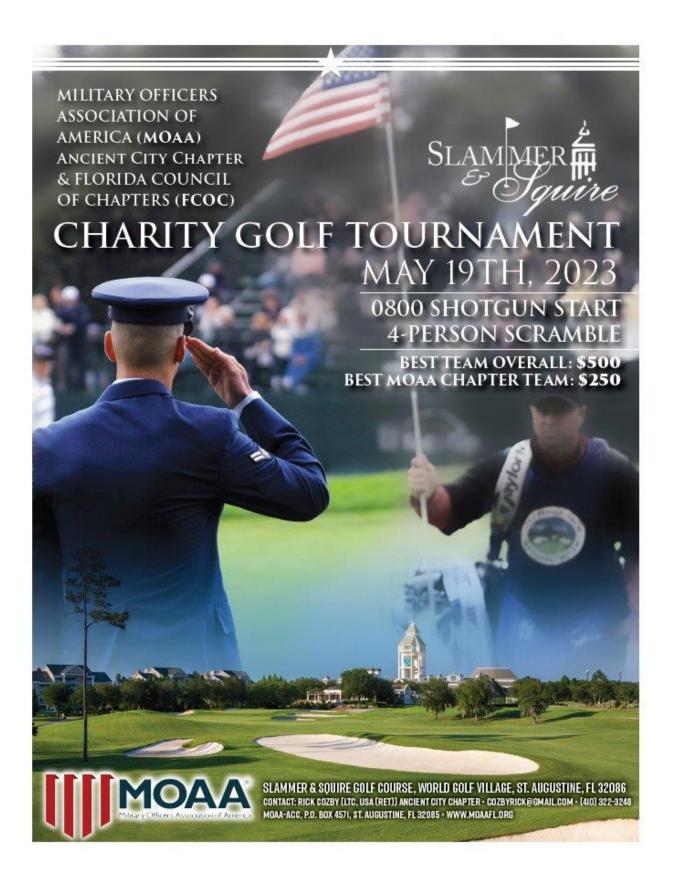
(b) In December 1948, at the request of the Pentagon, Hope and his USO troupe (which included Irving Berlin at the time) recorded a "Bob Hope Show" radio episode in front of troops stationed in Germany supporting the Berlin Airlift. According to the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation, it was this USO trip that inspired Hope to begin his tradition of entertaining the military community during the holiday season. Bob Hope entertained until December 1990, when he brought laughter and Christmas cheer to troops participating in Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain on his final



USO tour. The media dubbed him "America's No. 1 Soldier in Greasepaint." To the Gls, he was "G.I. Bob" and their hero.

If any of our readers have a personal rememberance of seeing Bob Hope during one of his tours, we would love to hear your story. Send to rfiebs1953@gmail.com.





MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA (MOAA)
ANCIENT CITY CHAPTER
& FLORIDA COUNCIL
OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)



CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

ENTRY FEES

\$175 pp for convention attendees • \$225 pp for other MOAA members and veterans • \$275 pp all others

Breakfast & Registration Starting at 0700 • Beer & Brats at the Putting Practice Green

2 Open Beverage Carts • Florida barbeque lunch • Gifts, Prizes & Contests!

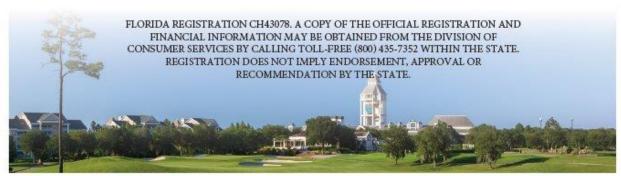
Entry Fee Includes Green Fee, Golf Cart & Range Balls

All sponsorship proceeds support the MOAA-ACC
Charitable, Educational and Scientific Fund, Inc., a
Florida 501(c)(3) charity and are tax deductible to the
extent allowed by law. This fund supports local JROTC
students, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County
and homeless veterans throughout the area.

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Practice Putting Green Sponsor: \$750
Hole Sponsor: \$500

Sponsor Name:	Sponsorship Level:	First Name:	Last Name:	
Phone Number:	Email:			
REGISTER N	NOW, PAY LATER!			
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First Name:	Last Name:	Phone:	Email:	
Player Two				
First Name:	Last Name:	Phone:	Email:	
Player Three				
First Name:	Last Name:	Phone:	Email:	
Player Four				
First Name:	Last Name:	Phone:	Email:	



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Life WITHOUT LIMITS



SHOW YOUR COMPETITIVE SIDE

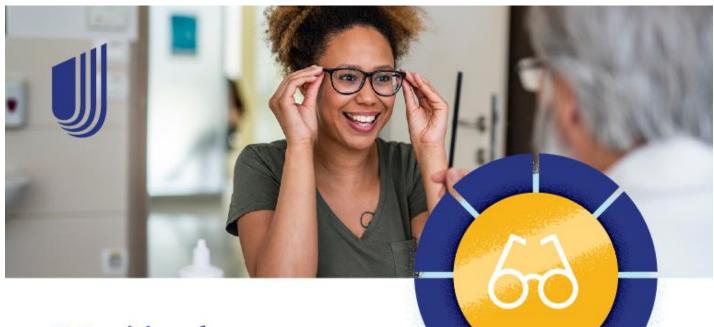
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MILITARY OFFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 40 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

Advertise with Us!

Submitting Articles and Pictures for *The Communiqué*

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best (Arial 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 or .png 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 rfiebs1953@gmail.com





The Council Communique' ADVERTISING ORDER FORM



Size of Ad	Per Issue	Annual Placement (6 Issues)			
Quarter Page (4" x 3.5")	\$75	\$300 (Save \$150)			
Half Page (8" x 3.5")	\$150	\$600 (Save \$300)			
or (4" x 7.5")					
Full Page (9" x 7.5")	\$300	\$1200 (Save \$600)			
Size of Ad:	No. of Issues:_	Annual:			
Note: Annual is from Jan-Dec. Six issues are published electronically on the 10 th of the even months. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be pro-rated for the remainder of the year. (Ad placement in the printed Annual Convention Program in the spring is handled separately by the Convention Committee: POC's are listed under the Committee Chairs on the last page of the Communique')					
Amount: \$ M. this form to: Treasurer – FCoC,		Florida Council of Chapters and mail with Fort Myers, FL, 33906.			
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Submit PDF or JPEG file of ad(s) or ad update via email with a scanned copy of the completed order form to vpfcoc@gmail.com

Copy is due by the first day of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Please notify the Council Vice-President if you plan to change the ad copy. Address questions to Col Steve Bond at 321-831-7572 or to vpfcoc@gmail.com.

Florida Chapters & Web Sites (if available)

Ancient City Chapter

St. Augustine Area: Northeast View Website

Broward County Chapter

Deerfield Beach Area: Southeast View Website

Central Florida Chapter

Orlando Area: East Central <u>View Website</u>

Flagler County Chapter

Palm Coast Area: Northeast View Website

Gainesville Chapter

Gainesville Area: Mid Central <u>View Website</u>

Indian River Chapter

Vero Beach Area: East Central <u>View Website</u>

Lee Coast Chapter, MOAA

Sanibel Island Area: South West <u>View Website</u>

Military Officers Association of South West Florida

Naples Area: South West View Website

Nassau County

Fernandina Beach Area: Northeast View Website

Bay County Chapter

Panama City Area: Northwest

Cape Coral Chapter

Cape Coral Area: South West View Website

Charlotte Harbor Chapter

Punta Gorda Area: South West <u>View Website</u>

Florida Gold Coast Chapter

Coral Gables Area: Southeast

Halifax Area Chapter

Daytona Beach Area: East Central View Website

Kingdom Of The Sun Chapter

Ocala Area: Mid Central <u>View Website</u>

Mayport Chapter

Jacksonville Area: Northeast View Website

Military Officers Club of Volusia County

Orange City Area: East Central <u>View Website</u>

Northeast Florida Chapter

Jacksonville Area: Northeast View Website

Bradenton Chapter

Bradenton Area: South West View Website

Cape Canaveral Chapter

Patrick AFB Area: East Central View Website

Clearwater Chapter

CLEARWATER Area: West Central View Website

Florida Keys

Islamorada Area: Southeast <u>View Website</u>

Imperial Polk County Chapter

Lakeland Area: Mid Central

Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter

Lady Lake Area: Mid Central <u>View Website</u>

Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.

Sarasota Area: South West <u>View Website</u>

MOAA of Citrus County

Lecanto
Area: Mid Central
View Website

Northwest Florida Chapter

Fort Walton Beach Area: Northwest View Website



Florida Chapters, Continued

Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter

Jupiter Area: Southeast View Website

St. Petersburg Area Chapter

St. Petersburg Area: West Central View Website

Sun City Center Chapter

Sun City Center Area: West Central View Website

Tallahassee Chapter

Tallahassee Area: Northwest View Website

Pensacola Chapter

Pensacola Area: Northwest <u>View Website</u>

South Central Florida Chapter

Sebring Area: South West View Website

Suncoast Chapter

Port Richey Area: West Central View Website

Tampa Chapter

MacDill AFB
Area: West Central
View Website

Santa Rosa Chapter

Milton Area: Northwest

South Dade Chapter

Princeton Area: South East

Suwannee River Valley Chapter

Lake City Area: Northeast View Website

Treasure Coast Chapter

Fort Pierce Area: East Central View Website





Florida Council of Chapters



Military Officers Association of America

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The Communiqué is on the web: http://moaafl.org/

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 via e-mail 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.moaafl.org/, drop down menu Events/News.

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