



MILITARY OFFICERS CALL
Sun City Center Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 5693, Sun City Center, FL. 33571
Website: www.sccmoaa.org



Volume 39 Number 4

April 2023

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family.

What can I say? We had another amazing meeting in March with a great turnout and an exceptional speaker. Brig Gen Snelson, Deputy J3, CENTCOM, interjected humor and entertainment into a very serious topic related to CENTCOM operations. Join us on Apr 5th when our very own Admiral Larry Chambers will provide a presentation on the evacuation of Saigon.

Several members of the chapter manned the table at Fun-Fest. It's a great time to meet the members of other clubs and organizations but also to introduce our chapter to Sun City Center residents. I'm hoping the calls and inquiries start coming in. Our goal is to increase our membership by 15 members this year.

If you are interested in getting involved, we have another volunteer opportunity available.... Just for you! We are looking for two members to sell our merchandise, one member every other month. Requirement? Set up the merchandise 30 minutes before the meeting and be available for a few minutes after the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you on Apr 5th. Call someone, invite them, or bring them to the meeting. Till then, stay safe, be blessed, and *Never Stop Serving*.

It is an exciting time for MOAA! Hear our new National President, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret), discuss his plans for MOAA in the short and the long term. To listen to this Veteran's Corner Radio broadcast, click on the link below.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/952243/11961074>

April Program

Rear Admiral Larry Chambers, USN (Ret)



Lawrence Cleveland "Larry" Chambers (born June 10, 1929) is the first African American to command a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier and the first African American graduate of the Naval Academy to reach flag rank. Chambers played a prominent role as captain of the USS Midway during the Vietnam War. During the evacuation of Saigon--known as Operation Frequent Wind--he

famously and controversially ordered several UH-1 helicopters pushed overboard to make room for escaping Republic of Vietnam Air Force Major Buang-Ly to land on the aircraft carrier in a Cessna O-1 Bird Dog with his wife and five children, thereby saving their lives. Chambers, who had only commanded Midway for a few weeks, gave the order believing (wrongly) that he would be court-martialed for the \$10 million loss.



Admiral Chambers' first fleet assignment was to an anti-submarine warfare squadron, VS-37, where he flew the Grumman AF Guardian. He later flew the A-1 Skyraider with VA-215 and then transitioned to jet light attack aircraft, flying the A-4 Skyhawk. He then established VA-67 as its first commanding officer, flying the A-7 Corsair II. The Admiral also played a role in the desegregation of the U.S. Navy during a period of racial strife.

Admiral Chambers will give his presentation about the evacuation of Saigon in April 1975. That evacuation occurred 48 years ago.

2022/2023 Chapter Officers

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Legislative Affairs

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 155 Chapter Members
- 94 Regular LIFE members
- 25 Regular ANNUAL members
- 33 Regular BASIC members
- 28 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ Dave Garner, Major, USAF (Ret). Janene
- ❖ Stephen T. Varga-Sinka, Major, USA (Ret) Susan

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ Dorothy Wagasky, Surviving Spouse, Dropped
- ❖ June Masters, Surviving Spouse, Dropped
- ❖ Robert Lippincott, Captain, Dropped
- ❖ Doris Johnson, Surviving Spouse, Dropped
- ❖ Ronnie Carter, CDR, Dropped
- ❖ Tom Altshuler, LTJG, Dropped
- ❖ John Steirer, Major, Dropped

❖ The Chapter reimburses \$100 to members who upgrade To LIFE when LIFE certificate is presented to the treasurer.

❖ *The Sun City Center MOAA Chapter is an IRS 501(c)(19) non-profit Charitable organization and therefore donations may be eligible for deduction on your federal Income tax.*

\$19.00 - 5 April LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 2 April 2023

Florida Room, Atrium Building

945 North Course Lane , Sun City Center, FL 33573

Please give full names of members and guests, total number attending. Cost is \$19.00/person payable at the door in cash or check. Social hour begins at 11:00 a.m. Business meeting at 11:15 followed by a speaker and lunch.

Remember, if you make a reservation and do not attend, you are expected to pay. Bring payment to next meeting or send check to:

*Military Officers Association of America
Post Office Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693*

Buffet Luncheon Menu

Garden Salad Bar with Dressing Assortment, Rolls & Butter

Entrees:

- Sugar Glazed Ham
- Chicken Piccata
- Bourbon Glazed Salmon

Au Gratin Potatoes & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

Fun Fest 2023 was as good as advertised. If you were there, you know what I mean. And if you missed it, YOU MISSED IT! Almost all the clubs in Sun City Center had tables displaying their wares, a health fair, a dozen food booths, and entertainment indoors and outdoors. I couldn't even begin to estimate how many thousands of people were there as they were coming and going all the time. I enjoyed seeing many people I knew and had a good lunch too.

Here's a short devotion titled "Who Looking Out for Me?"

Humans are prone to wander, make mistakes, and become defeated. Earth's first couple had very simple rules to follow. However, it seemed easy for them to believe that God was holding all the best for Himself and that following Him wasn't in their best interest.

You're probably no different. You may feel God doesn't really understand you. You may believe He will withhold something you want.

God designed you to embrace His plan and purpose, but because of sin, your natural bent is to look out for yourself. You can be convinced that things, fame, and money provide a path to your desired satisfaction, **but they don't**. Instead, the self-centered pursuit of these things pulls you away from God, the only One who can truly satisfy you.

A self-focused lifestyle often leads to misunderstanding, misapplication of what you learn, and to misguided trips to places God has marked KEEP OUT! In what parts of life have you been only looking out for yourself?

"I know God, that mere mortals can't run their own lives, that men and women don't have what it takes to take charge of life" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Take some time each day to find a quiet place where you can talk with God through your prayers and hear His voice through studying your Bible. You will be greatly rewarded for your efforts.



MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC)
46th Annual Convention, May 19th-21st
At the Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL



Come join us at the gathering of Florida MOAA Members in Florida's Oldest City, St. Augustine, from Friday, May 19th through Sunday, May 21st. There are low hotel rates available for MOAA members before, during, and after the Convention. The Convention promises to be a fun and memorable event at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center at the World Golf Village, just off I-95 in St. Augustine. There is a Golf Tournament on Friday on one of the world-class courses and tours of the Old City. On Saturday there is a bourbon tasting event and a Military Ball! MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. B.K. Kelly is the guest speaker. There will also be a memorial service for MOAA members in Florida that we lost in 2022, Surviving Spouse and Legislative Affairs updates by MOAA representatives. We are hearing there will be Pirates too with lots of other things to see and do!

Reservations are now open and can be made on the MOAA Florida Council website at www.MOAAFL.org/Convention.aspx?ConvYear=2023

Photo Courtesy of Ted Pappas

Like what you see in this newsletter?
There's even more in the Florida Council of Chapter's newsletter at this link!

<https://moaaf.org/communique.aspx>

Did you know we have a Facebook Page? We do! It's a great place to see what's happening in our chapter, and it allows you to express your opinions on our activities and keep in touch with other members. If you have a Facebook account, click the logo/link to "like" and follow our page. If you don't yet have a Facebook Account, Facebook makes it easy to establish one.



MOAA LUNCHEON BUFFET



The March Luncheon had a great turnout, with 70 people in attendance. We hope to keep our number up and thank all of you who make your reservations through the MOAA reservations line (813-924-1983). **IT IS IMPORTANT** that you make your reservation as soon as possible but **NO LATER THAN** noon Sunday before the luncheon date. The caterer is notified Sunday night by email of the number of reservations they must plan for, and the SCA is advised of the number of tables and seats that must be set up for the luncheon. While we always plan for a couple of extras, it should be the exception of unplanned circumstances for a LATE reservation. We do not want anyone to miss the luncheon/meeting, so it is essential to **MAKE RESERVATIONS ON TIME.**

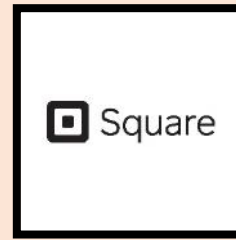
We hope to see everyone at the April 5th luncheon/meeting.

JOIN THE PERMANENT RESERVATION LIST

If you are a regular attendee of the monthly luncheon/meeting, you may request to be placed on the Permanent Reservation List. Once on the list, you only have to call if you CAN NOT make the meeting. Otherwise, you are automatically signed up each month. You can request to be placed on the list at the check-in table or contact Benny Blackshire at 813-260-3105 to be placed on the list or for more information.

CASH – CHECK – or CREDIT CARD!

Beginning with the April luncheon, you can pay for your meal by credit card. Cash or Check will also be accepted. There is a small service charge if you use your credit card.



Leave your checks at home!

You can now pay your member dues, lunches, name tags, and shirts with a credit card (there's a small convenience fee)

Member Dues = \$20.62

Surviving Spouse Dues = \$15.49

1 Meal = \$19.59

2 Meals = \$39.08

Polo shirt = \$25.75

Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Happy Spring to our MOAA members!

The MOAA Sun City Surviving Spouse Committee is sponsoring a community-wide orientation for our military veterans, military family members, and the caregivers for our military veterans and family members. This forum will be open to all veterans and survivors of all branches, grades, and ranks to ask questions and gather information regarding surviving spouse benefits, estate planning, etc. We will have military and veteran service officers present to answer questions. Space will be limited, and registration will be required in order to provide handouts for everyone. This orientation will occur on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 1-3pm, in Community Hall, Sun City Center, in Room 3. The link to register will be available in April.

UNCOVERING OUR AMERICAN VETERAN HEROES

Walt Cawein

An effort is underway in Sun City Center to promote perpetual care for American veteran headstones and markers in our local Southshore cemeteries. A recent short visit to The Ruskin Memorial Park cemetery revealed many veteran grave markers that had not been maintained or cleaned for years, if ever.



Consistent with the belief that every veteran headstone and marker should be kept in a respectful condition we hope to inspire patriotic volunteers such as the JROTC, ROTC, Boy/Girl Scouts, and other civic minded organizations as well as individual volunteers who are needed and will be willing to help clean these headstones and markers.

Once identified, all volunteers will comply with the protocol provided by the National Cemeteries Administration to properly clean each veteran headstone and marker. Also, all necessary and approved supplies will be provided at no cost to the volunteers.

Currently, the Military Order of World Wars SCC Chapter has a Monuments, Memorials & Plaques outreach program that already provides a management and implementation structure for this effort.

Hopefully, all of our local military organizations and personnel will support the effort with both representation, participation and financial assistance.

For further information, please contact Walt Cawein at 813-340-0533, or email at waltcawein@gmail.com or contact Bill Kirkpatrick at 805-506-3269, or email at ualav8tor@yahoo.com

A service day at My Warrior's Place!

Chapter members recently spent time volunteering at MWP.



Scenes from our March Meeting!



Legislative Liaison Corner

March Update

Joseph Muhlberger

Your Legislative Update for April 2023

To date, I've provided information that keeps pace with activities in our political environment. This edition will be twofold. Provided will be an update to the new The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Legislative Action Center found at <https://moaa.quorum.us/> that was presented in the February edition. Also, a personal perspective will be provided on why we owe it to ourselves to be involved with our legislative activities; after all, they're our activities.

I provided a how-to guide to use the new MOAA Legislative Action Center in February. I made myself a guinea pig to this new process as a test of this new program by using the new program to reach out to our legislators. It works. I received responses from the offices of US Senator Marco Rubio, US Senator Rick Scott, and US Representative Vern Buchanan. Was it perfect? No. Within two days, I heard from the offices of Senators Rubio and Scott. But I heard nothing from Representative Buchanan.

Fortunately, we have a local office for Representative Buchanan. At the helm of his office is Ms. MarDee Buchman. She's a treasure. I told her I believed the connection between the MOAA program and his office may not have been complete. She got right to the task. Within hours of reaching out to her, I received a response to my input via MOAA's Legislative Action Center. Additionally, there was reassurance that the program was in full use, as it applies to Representative Buchanan.

If you haven't set yourself up with an account for MOAA's Legislative Action Center, please go to <https://moaa.quorum.us/>, establish an account, and establish your voice with our legislatures. Honestly, why should you, though? Well, that brings me to part two of this month's edition.

As I write this, I'm mourning the loss of my 94 year young Mom. She passed away on Tuesday, March 14th. She was the female embodiment of Mr. Rogers. A dear person if ever there was one. Her best characteristics were her passion for making the world brighter and her ability to encourage people to achieve their very best in all endeavors. She'll be missed yet with the fondest of memories. No, she wasn't a political activist or war protestor. Rather, when I was young, she shared a moment when turning to our legislative representative resulted in action.

In the summer of 1960, my maternal Grandfather retired from the New York (City) Police Department. He and my grandmother bought a house in the Adirondack Mountains. Life away from the busy city. Tranquility at last. Well, December 1960 included a nor'easter that kept piling up the snow. Roads weren't being cleared, so life in the mountains had come to a halt. Thankfully, they had a well on their property and a wood fireplace. Their means of survival was keeping the fire stoked and having access to the freshwater. Many of their neighbors didn't have such resources. And those roads weren't being cleared.

When the storm was brutalizing Upstate New York, my Grandparents got one last phone call to my Mom just before the telephone lines dropped connection. Their message was clear; the county wasn't dispatching plows to clear the streets. My mother commiserated this message to some friends. One friend suggested she reach out to Capitol Hill. After some research, she learned who the appropriate legislator was to contact.

Representative Samuel Stratton had been in office for just over one year. Mom contacted his office. The staff member answering the phone heard what my Mom had to say and put her through directly with Representative Stratton. Mom could listen to Representative Stratton writing notes as she conveyed the plight of those snowed-in on the Adirondack Mountains.

In the aftermath, my Mom and grandparents compared notes. Within three hours of my Mom's call, the plows were clearing the roads. Clear roads allowed access for the telephone lines to be brought back into service. And Mom received a very nice letter from Representative Stratton that she kept for years.

MOAA has opened an important and easy-to-use program allowing us to reach out to our legislators with the Legislative Action Center. This is an excellent way to support the eight MOAA campaigns. It also provides a means to make your voice heard on Capitol Hill on any issue you choose. Capitol Hill worked for Mom, and it can work for you.



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- Operation Warm Heart, administered by the 1st Sergeants Group at MacDill AFB, who provide commissary vouchers for soldiers in need
- Scholarships and Leadership Programs for students from military families
- Operation Helping Hand: monthly support for military families of wounded servicemen and women at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa

For more information, call 813/634-4675 or log onto our website at mfst.us

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Member Spotlight

Are you involved in a community event, activity, or service? Send us a picture and a description of 'you' in action and we will highlight you in the chapter newsletter!

Newsletter Editor: Cliff Korn
cliff@kornhouse.net

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This program captures through a video interview, firsthand account of Veterans who served in any branch of the US military in any capacity, from World War I through the present, and are no longer serving. Civilians who served in support of a US war effort in a professional capacity are also welcome to participate.

**3rd Wednesday of
Each Month
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
By Appointment Only**

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Sun City Center Membership Application

(PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY)

Date _____

Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____


Date of Birth (M/Y) _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Are you a member of MOAA National? YES NO UNKNOWN If Yes, MOAA number _____

Do you want a name tag at \$10? YES NO If Yes, what name? _____

Do you want a name tag for your spouse at \$10.00? If Yes, what name? _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you. 

And, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? _____

Are you a member of any other Chapter(s)? Yes NO If yes, which one(s)? _____

To complete enrollment:

- Print this application, fill it out and mail it with your check made payable to "SCC MOAA Chapter" to the Chapter's address above.
- For additional information please email waltcawein@gmail.com

Other:

- Chapter annual dues for officers are \$20.00, and \$15.00 for Surviving Spouses. Spouses and significant others are welcome and free.
- Chapter luncheons/meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month except July and August. Guest speakers on multiple topics during each luncheon.

(Your Signature)



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Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

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Jim Boyd

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Vern Buchanan

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Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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