



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 38 Number 12

December 2022

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family.

I cannot believe I have completed one year as President of the Chapter. It has been a privilege to serve you. I haven't been perfect but 'thank you' for the words of encouragement and affirmation.

At the December meeting we will have the installation of the officers that will serve during the next year. COL Steve Bond, VP of the Florida Council of Chapters will officiate. Join us and support the slate of officers who will work this year to ensure we continue to have great meetings, support the veterans in the community, and advocate for all veterans, surviving spouses, and their families.

The December meeting will have a holiday flavor. We will not have a guest speaker; we will have the installation instead and enjoy our meal in a leisurely manner. There will be a large box in the Florida Room. "What for?" you may ask. For the gifts you will bring to support the veterans that get their care at the James Haley Hospital. A few of the board members and I will take them to James Haley Hospital the second week in Dec. I am sure the vets will be excited. Thank you for your generosity and for passing your blessings forward.

The Board of Directors and I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving. Let's be grateful for all we have and all we enjoy.

Call someone and invite them to the Dec meeting. I look forward to seeing you on the 7th. Till then, stay safe, be blessed, and *never stop serving*.

Surviving Spouse Corner

Jean Bennet Stratis

Happy holidays to all our wonderful Chapter members! Tis' the season for making joyful memories and also dealing with stress. There is nothing new in this article you haven't heard before, however, we all need to be reminded of ways to manage stress.

- **Sleep** is so important, especially during this time of year. So many things occurring in our daily life and staying on a regular sleep schedule is essential.
- Get outside for some fresh air and **exercise** when and however you can. Walking for 10 minutes a day outside will clear your mind and get your blood flowing. **Self-care** isn't indulgent, it is necessary. If you have the time and the financial means to get a massage, schedule one today.
- It's a busy time of year and it is so helpful to have a **plan**. Write your events and tasks in a calendar to help you stay on track and spread out those errands over a period of time if you can. Pick and choose which events you "want" to attend. You don't have to do it all. Of course, the MOAA luncheon is one you will want to attend!
- Develop a **budget** and stick with it! It's so easy to overspend during the holidays. One trick I started years ago was to decide on an amount I would donate to bell ringers and other causes through the holidays. I would put that amount in an envelope and pull from that. It is so helpful to have smaller bills on hand and I was able to better control the donation amount. On Christmas Eve, I would empty the envelope into the last bucket of the season!
- For those who have lost a loved one, this is a difficult time. Spend time with family and friends remembering those we have loved. **Honor** their memory by volunteering in a cause they supported or make a donation in their memory. There is no right or wrong way to honor your loved one. Do whatever you feel is right.

In short, remember the reason for the season. I wish all of you a wonderful, stress-free, holiday season!

2022/2023 Chapter Officers

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

DIRECTOR

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joseph.muhlberger@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 159 Chapter Members
- 93 Regular LIFE members
- 26 Regular ANNUAL members
- 35 Regular BASIC members
- 27 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ No new members this month 🙄

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ No members lost this month 🙏

❖ 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 form.*

\$19.00 - 7 December LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 4 December 2022

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:

- Roast Pork with Rosemary Shallot Sauce
- Chicken Florentine
- Bourbon Glazed Salmon

Mashed Potatoes with Gravy & Vegetable du Jour

Legislative Liaison Corner

Lt Col Joseph Muhlberger

If you're wondering how you can be an advocate with your Congressional representatives and want to know key issues to bring to their attention, feel free to utilize your position as a member of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) when communicating with them. This MOAA online link provides current information in our Surviving Spouses Corner <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>. What follows are highlights of three Acts that can help our families and for which you can be an advocate.

House (of Representatives) Resolution (H.R.) 7900, The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2023 is currently in the House Committee for markup. As it is refined, you can reach out to your elected officials and ask them to support these bills, either via the links below or by using MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard – 866-272-MOAA (6622) – to connect with your legislators' offices.

1. Supporting Families of the Fallen Act

Bill numbers: H.R. 3793 | S. 2794

Status as of June 7: 14 House co-sponsors; passed the Senate on March 23.

Legislative Action Center link: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Co-Sponsor the Supporting Families of the Fallen Act](#)

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs provide a maximum coverage of \$400,000, a figure which has not been updated since 2005. With current inflation and the cumulative effect of 17 years without an update, it is time for SGLI and VGLI to catch up: The Supporting Families of the Fallen Act will increase this important coverage to \$500,000.

2. Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act

Bill numbers: H.R. 2214 | S. 1669

Status as of June 7: 42 House co-sponsors, 7 Senate co-sponsors.

Legislative Action Center link: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)

When a retired servicemember passes, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service recoups their last month of retirement pay. This is frequently a terrible surprise for a new survivor and adds unnecessary financial stress to a grieving widow. The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act would allow survivors to avoid this immediate recoupment (and prevent surprise overdraft fees) and instead gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months or request debt forgiveness.

3. Caring for Survivors Act

Bill numbers: H.R. 3402 | S. 976

Status as of June 7: 64 House co-sponsors, 12 Senate co-sponsors

Legislative Action Center link: [Act Now to Improve Survivors' Benefits](#)

This important legislation would raise Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to the same levels as other federal survivor programs. It would boost DIC to 55% of the compensation of a 100% disabled veteran, up from the current 43%.

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.



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



**YOUR 2023
MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE
NOW PAYABLE**

CHAPTER 2023 ANNUAL DUES

- Officers: \$20.00
- Surviving Spouses: \$15.00
- Spouses: Free

HOW TO PAY YOUR DUES

1. Cash or check at our Luncheon
2. Mail your check to:
Sun City Center MOAA Chapter
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693
3. Online
 - Go to moaa.org
 - Login if you have an ID and password. If not click on "Join" and create your account.
 - After you login click on "Chapters" Then Click on "Pay Dues Online" and follow the instructions.

When you pay your dues, please consider making a donation for one (or more) of the following Chapter advocacy programs:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | My Warrior's Place | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | JROTC | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Operation Warm Heart | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Scholarships | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Surviving Spouses | \$ _____ |

Note: Chapter recognition for all members who pay their dues before 1 January 2023.

What is a Veteran Service Officer

Article provided by Walt Cawein

Do you have a problem navigating the Veteran's Administration for your benefits? Do you know the role of a Veteran Service Officer (VSO)?

Veteran Service Officer's are trained and accredited by the VA to offer a range of services for veterans, servicemembers, dependents, and survivors. Specifically, VSO's help you understand and apply for any VA benefits you may be entitled to including compensation, education, vocational rehabilitation and employment, home loans, life insurance, pension, health care, and burial benefits.

Are you aware that the American Legion Post 246 and the DAV Chapter 110 have teamed together to provide VSO services right here in Sun City Center. The three VSO's are Jim Taylor, Jim Fletcher, both MOAA members, and John Reagor. You may contact them as follows:

John Reagor, tel: [813-634-3465](tel:813-634-3465),
e-mail gindaverea@juno.com

Jim Fletcher, tel: 813-352-2764,
e-mail jamesmfletcher@aol.com

Jim Taylor, tel: 217-725-1572,
e-mail jimtay101@att.net

Note: Service Office, tel: [813-331-3871](tel:813-331-3871)
(If no answer leave voice mail)

The Sun City Center VSO office is in the Community Association (CA) Community Hall located at 1910 South Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573. As you enter the main lobby their office is located on the right. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Appointments are available at other times.

When you need assistance in getting the VA benefits you think you might be entitled to you should utilize the assistance of one of the above Veterans Service Officers (VSOs). Rest assured that they each have your best interest in mind and exist to help you get the benefits you deserve.

Volunteer Opportunity

From Jim Taylor – The Sun City Chapter of DAV needs volunteer drivers and dispatchers for their van that takes veterans to the James Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa. To help with this essential service one needs only a valid driver's license, to be healthy, and complete a volunteer orientation. A Commercial License is not required. Jim says that volunteers do not have to be veterans and both men and women are more than welcome! For more information please call (813) 331-3871.

Sun City Center MOAA Website

Don't forget to visit our 5-star website.
www.sccmoaa.org

You will find much membership information, photos, calendar of events, past newsletters and more. If you would like to suggest topics for inclusion contact the Webmaster:
rpitcher6666@gmail.com

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

What a great turnout for the November meeting/luncheon. We had over 50 people in attendance. In December Col. Steve Bond, Vice President of the Florida Council, will be installing our new officers for 2023, and there will be a special program for the holiday. So, we hope you will come out and join us and don't forget to make your reservation.

Happy Holidays! This joyous seasonal phrase will be heard in living rooms, grocery stores, and churches all throughout the country for a little more than a month. For many people, this is truly the best time of the year. But it doesn't come without trouble.

For one reason or another, there are people who find spending time with family burdensome. But, while the potential for social mishaps exists during this time of year, the opportunity to have a joyful and peaceful reunion with loved ones is within their reach. The following prayer might be a good place to begin if you want to have a joyful and peaceful holiday season.

Heavenly Father, thank you for being an awesome God. Thank you for providing all my needs. I know that without you I am nothing. Everything that I am and I have is from you. I am grateful that my heart and mind can be at peace because You are always with me. You are my sustenance and my strength. Your love guides me into righteousness, and I am grateful for everything that we have been through together. Because of You, I am never alone. Thank you for a new day and every new moment that I live.

In Your Holy Name, Amen.

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!

It is with deep sadness that we learned chapter member Ron Rook was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). This is a terminal disease with no known cure. Ron has been suffering for over 2 years from numerous and ever evolving health issues and on November 5, he was officially diagnosed with ALS. The doctors will be treating Ron with medications and therapies to make him as comfortable as possible. Please keep Ron in your prayers as he has a rough road ahead.

November Meeting Highlights




COL Steve Bond, COL Eunice Paxtot, CAPT Erin Stone



Mr. George Mayer



MOAA SCC Chapter Board & Guests



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- PAWS for Patriots through Southeastern Guide Dogs: MFST supports three blind veterans per year at a cost of \$5,000 per veteran
- Service Dogs for veterans with PTSD and other traumatic injuries
- Homeless Prevention for Women Veterans: help with rent, child care and licensing training
- 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

**1010 American Eagle Blvd., Suite 400
 Sun City Center, Florida 33573-5276**

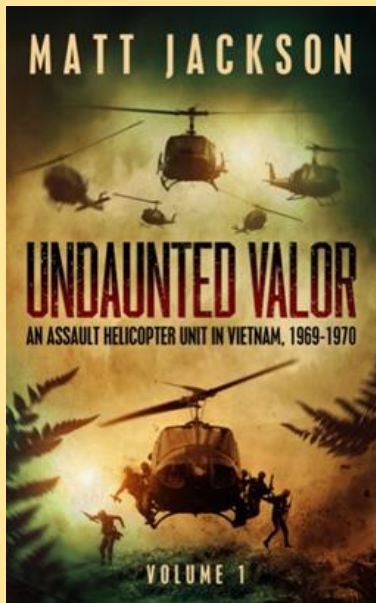


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Member Spotlight

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

2022 Memorial Day Sponsor




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 307 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.
 Sun City Center, FL 33573
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VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

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A PROGRAM OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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**

**If you are a Veteran or know
Veterans who would like to
share their stories, schedule
your appointment now.**

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SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER

Post Office Box 5693
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Website: sccmoaa.org

Sun City Center Chapter Enrollment Form

Date _____

Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ 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, for only \$4 a month, 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 are for officers \$20.00, for Surviving Spouse \$15.00 and for Spouse Free.
- Chapter luncheons/meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month except July and August. Guest speakers on multiple topics during each luncheon.



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

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Mike Beltran

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Jim Boyd

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Marco Rubio

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Legislative assistant:
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MOAA Take Action link: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?1>

