



**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](http://www.sccmoaa.org)



**Volume 39 Number 12**

**December 2023**

## **President's Message**

**COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)**

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family!

We had a wonderful and interesting meeting last month with two humans and two dogs as our guests. The Watts from Southeastern Guide Dogs gave us an insightful presentation on the role service dogs play in the lives of veterans who suffer from mental health issues. You know you can take a puppy home for 3, 6, or 9 months? Train it in basic skills till it's ready to enter the program.

Make plans to attend the Dec meeting. Not only will we install the new board, but we will also inject holiday cheer into the meeting.

Also, don't forget our campaign to bless the vets from James Haley. Bring toiletries, underclothes, and gift cards to the Dec meeting. We have included the full list on page 5 of this newsletter. We will bring the items to James Haley the 2nd week in Dec.

They say time flies when you're having fun. These past two years have flown by, and yes, I've had fun. It seems like it was yesterday when Jim Haney turned over the Presidency of this wonderful chapter to me. I was lucky. The volunteers that make up the board take their responsibility seriously. You would think they are getting paid. They made my job easy. The non-board volunteers make meetings and programs run smoothly: working at the registration table, setting up/tearing down, publicity and social media, selling and ordering chapter merchandise, hospitality, setting up displays, taking part in community events, and supporting veterans' organizations. From the bottom of my heart, 'THANK YOU' for going on this journey with me and your affirmations after our meetings. As we move on to the next chapter board, I'm sure you'll provide the same support to Bill Kirkpatrick, the incoming President. Mark your calendar and plan to attend every meeting.... Bring someone with you. But above all, remember, Stay safe, Be blessed, and '*Never Stop Serving*'.

## **December 2023 Program**

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 following Officers and Directors will be installed:

President: CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: COL Danny Melton, USMC (Ret)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Maj Kirk Faryniasz, USAF (Ret)

Secretary: Ms. Harriet Jordan, Surviving Spouse

Treasurer: Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret)

Immediate Past President: COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Director: LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret)

Director: LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret)

Director: Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret)

Director: CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret)

Director: Ms. Jeannie Stratis, Surviving Spouse

## 2022/2023 Chapter Officers

### PRESIDENT

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret).....(301) 529-4301  
[niche.patxot@gmail.com](mailto:niche.patxot@gmail.com)

### 1st VP

CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret).....(805) 506-3269  
[ualav8tor@yahoo.com](mailto:ualav8tor@yahoo.com)

Program Chair

### 2nd VP

Lt Col Walter Cawein, USAF (Ret).....(813) 340-0533  
[waltcawein@gmail.com](mailto:waltcawein@gmail.com)

Membership Chair

### TREASURER

Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret).....(603) 305-1062  
[bill@wwpat.us](mailto:bill@wwpat.us)

### SECRETARY

Ms. Harriet Jordan, .....(813) 773-7676  
[hmj1215@yahoo.com](mailto:hmj1215@yahoo.com)

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret).....(813) 260-3105  
[bwblacks@aol.com](mailto:bwblacks@aol.com)

Chaplain

### DIRECTOR

CW3 Bob Pitcher, USA (Ret).....(813) 857-8196  
[rpitcher6666@gmail.com](mailto:rpitcher6666@gmail.com)

Webmaster

### DIRECTOR

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[cliff@kornhouse.net](mailto:cliff@kornhouse.net)

Newsletter Editor

### DIRECTOR

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[garrett4@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:garrett4@tampabay.rr.com)

### DIRECTOR

Jean Bennett Stratis.....(813) 758-7330  
[jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com)

Surviving Spouse Liaison

### DIRECTOR

Lt Col Joseph Muhlberger, USAF (Ret)..(701) 509-3883  
[joseph.muhlberger@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.muhlberger@gmail.com)

Legislative Affairs

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### ❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 160 Chapter Members
- 93 Regular LIFE members
- 23 Regular ANNUAL members
- 35 Regular BASIC members
- 26 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

### ❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ Peatross, Martin, Colonel, USMC (Ret)
- ❖ Pelkowski, John, Captain, USAF (Ret)
- ❖ Chilton, Steven, Major, USAF (Ret)

### ❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ Rook, Ronald, Colonel, USMC (Ret). Deceased
- ❖ Cunningham, William (Ted) LTC, USA, Deceased

❖ 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 - 6 December LUNCHEON - \$19.00**

**To Register: 813-924-1983**

**Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 3 December 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 (cash, check, or credit card). Social hour begins when you arrive, and the Business meeting starts at 11:00 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:**

- Braised Beef Short Ribs
- Chicken Florentine
- Bourbon Glazed Salmon

Starch & Vegetable du Jour

**Desserts:** Chef's selected desserts

**Beverages:** Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

## The Chaplain's Corner

**Benny Blackshire**

It was great to see so many of you at the November luncheon/meeting. As we finish up with the Thanksgiving weekend and prepare to go into December, let us remember the purpose of the Holiday Season. There will be many get-togethers, dinners, and parties and that is good to have fellowship with your friends and neighbors. But we also need to get together with God during the season.

Chanukah begins Thursday evening, December 7, 2023, and continues through Friday, December 15, 2023. Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers, and fried foods. The Hebrew word Chanukah means "dedication," and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple. Also spelled Hanukkah (or variations of that spelling), the Hebrew word is actually pronounced with a guttural, "kh" sound, kha-nu-kah, not tcha-new-kah.

At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting. The menorah holds nine flames, one of which is the *shamash* ("attendant"), which is used to kindle the other eight lights. On the first night, they light just one flame. On the second night, an additional flame is lit. By the eighth night of Chanukah, all eight lights are kindled. We wish all our Jewish friends a very happy Hanukkah. Christmas is more than just gifts and parties. For Christians, it is the birth of Jesus, who is the cornerstone of the Christian religion. Here is a short story from Our Daily Bread titled, "The Christmas Star".

"If you find that star, you can always find your way home." Those were my father's words when he taught me how to locate the North Star as a child. Dad had served in the armed forces during wartime, and there were moments when his life depended on being able to navigate by the night sky. So, he made sure I knew the names and locations of several constellations, but it was being able to find Polaris that mattered most of all. Knowing that star's location meant I could gain a sense of direction wherever I was and find where I was supposed to be.

Scripture tells of another star of vital importance. "Magi from the east," learned men (from an area encompassed by Iran and Iraq today) had been watching for signs in the sky of the birth of the One who was to be God's king for His people. They came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him".

Astronomers don't know what caused the star of Bethlehem to appear, but the Bible reveals that God created it to point the world to Jesus – "the bright Morning Star." Christ came to save us from our sins and guide us back to God. Follow Him, and you'll find your way home. We wish all our Christian friends a very Merry Christmas.

And for all, Seasons Greetings, and have a Happy Holiday.

See our website for everything you ever wanted to know about our chapter!

<https://moaaf1.org/chapters/SCCMOAA/>



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.

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

<https://moaaf1.org/communique.aspx>

Sun City Chapter Honorary Member Bill Hodges has an award winning podcast that has information that will interest you. To listen to this Veteran's Corner Radio podcast, click on the link below.

<https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/952243.rss>

# IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



**YOUR 2024  
MEMBERSHIP  
DUES ARE  
NOW PAYABLE**

## CHAPTER 2024 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](http://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    | \$ _____ |

## **MOAA Sun City Center Holiday Support**

### **James A Haley Veterans Hospital**

**Last December our chapter members made generous donations to Veteran patients at the Hospital. Can we top our effort this year?**

**Let's show them some**



**at the Dec meeting.**

### **Money Donations**

Donations are accepted at <https://www.cdceportal.va.gov>

### **Amazon Wishlist**

<https://tinyurl.com/JAHVHAAmazonWishList>

<https://tinyurl.com/JAHVHAAmazonWishListFisherHouse>

Send a note to [VHATAMCDCE@va.gov](mailto:VHATAMCDCE@va.gov) so they know to expect it

### **Gift Cards**

**\$10 Gas cards - Social work service, Patient Advocates, Homeless Program**

**\$20 -Walmart and Publix- refreshments and snacks for recreation therapy activities/Social Work and Homeless Program**

**\$50 VISA & Master cards- Women's Program Baby Shower**

**\$50 VISA & Master cards- newly housed Veterans or those facing housing issues**

**Fleece TWIN size blankets**

**Athletic pants / Athletic shirts/t-shirts - all sizes**

**Underwear / Undershirts - all sizes**

**Sweatshirts - all sizes - NO hoods, zippers, or strings**

**Shoes - slip on/close toe/ NO laces, Sizes 8-13**

**Swim trunks - Med- XXL for rehab /aquatic therapy program**

**Sports bras (all sizes)**

**Athletic shorts (Women)- all sizes**

**Underwear / Undershirts (Women) - all sizes**

**Body Wash - liquid / full size**

**Combs / Hairbrushes**

**Denture Adhesive / Denture cleaner tablets (please check expiration dates)**

**Deodorant / hand & body lotion**

**Nail clippers**

**Disposable razors**

**Shampoo**

**Mouthwash (alcohol free) large, full size**

# Highlights from our November Meeting!



# Chapter Community Activities

**Hi Neighbor:** the SCC MOAA Chapter had a booth to explain our benefits to SCC Members. We were one of several veteran organizations to take part.



**Veterans Day:** The SCC MOAA Chapter was proud to participate in this years veterans recognition ceremony. The guest speaker was none other than our own chapter member, Dr. Michelle Halcomb.



## Surviving Spouse Corner

### Jeannie Stratis

If you are looking for the best gift to give your loved ones this holiday season, look no further. The Paper Safe is a wonderful document for any family distributed by the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America. This document was designed with Veterans in mind but is a great tool for anyone. It is intended for you to easily contain all the information that your family will need in a stressful time, whether it's a passing or if you are unable to communicate temporarily. Even if you already have a Will or Trust, Paper Safe can allow you to put all that information, along with all the other details that somebody would need, in one simple to find place. From the link below, you can read it over and get ideas, or you can print it right from your computer for your immediate use. You can also download a fillable copy of the paper safe that you can fill out on your computer and print or save electronically.

This is a priceless gift for your spouse or children this holiday season, but you might want to throw in some jewelry, a watch, or a gift card or two! Click on this link to [Download or Print Version of the Paper Safe](#). Click on this link for a [Fillable Version of the Paper Safe](#).

Happy holidays!

Jeannie Stratis

Surviving Spouse Liaison

### In Memoriam

Col Ronald Rook, USMC (Ret)



October 21, 1946 – October 25, 2023

LTC William (Ted) Cunningham, USA (Ret)



February 22, 1942 - September 5, 2023



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024**  
6 o'clock p.m.

Sunseeker Resort  
4949 Tamiami Trail | Charlotte Harbor, Florida | 33980

**An Inspirational Patriotic Themed Evening Featuring  
Presentation of the Museum's Wall of Warriors Honoree  
Lieutenant Colonel Daniel V. O'Leary**  
Chief of Medicine and Medical Director of the Emergency Department, ShorePoint Health Port Charlotte  
**Distinguished Civilian Award Recipient**  
David M. Klein M.D.

Member - Museum Board of Directors, Community Philanthropist  
**Honorary Co-Chairmen**  
Major General Richard E. Carr, U.S. Air Force (Retired)  
Brigadier General Fredric N. Buckingham, U.S. Air Force (Retired)  
**Keynote Speaker**  
U.S. Congressman Greg Steube, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran  
**Featured Speaker**  
Major General Gregg F. Martin, PhD, U.S. Army (Retired)  
Combat Veteran, Bipolar Survivor, Airborne-Ranger-Engineer qualified soldier, and Army Strategist

**Distinguished Military Guest**  
Rear Admiral Lawrence "Larry" Chambers U.S. Navy  
First African American to command a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier (USS Midway) and  
the first African American graduate of the Naval Academy to reach flag rank.





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- 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**

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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](mailto:cliff@kornhouse.net)

## 2023 Memorial Day Sponsor




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[www.sccrealty.com](http://www.sccrealty.com)  
 Office: 813-633-3311 Cell: 813-917-3629

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Funeral Director

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📍 1851 Rickenbacker Dr  
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# VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

## PRESERVE YOUR MILITARY HISTORY .



### A PROGRAM OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**T**his 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.**

**To schedule your recorded interview at  
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# SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER

Post Office Box 5693  
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693  
Website: [sccmoaa.org](http://sccmoaa.org)

## 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](mailto: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)



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

### **Florida House District 70**

#### **Mike Beltran**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 3618 Erindale Drive  
Valrico, FL 33596-6311

State - 303 House Office Bldg.  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee 32399-1300

**Tel.** Local - 813-653-7097  
State – 850-717-5057

Legislative Assistant - James Jacobs

### **Florida Senate District 20**

#### **Jim Boyd**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 717 Manatee Ave.  
Suite 100  
Bradenton 34205

State - 312 Senate Bldg.  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee 32399-1100

**Tel.** Local – (813) 779-7059  
State – (850) 487-5020

Legislative Assistant:

Amanda Romant  
romant.amanda@flsenate.gov

### **Florida Congressional District 16**

#### **Vern Buchanan**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 510 Vonderburg Drive  
Suite 303  
Brandon, FL 33511

DC - 2110 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

**Tel.** Local – 813-657-1013  
DC – 202-226-5015  
Fax – 202-226-0828

Hillsborough County Field Representative/Constituent  
Service – MarDee Buchman

### **U.S. Senators**

#### **Marco Rubio**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 501 E. Polk Street  
Suite 601  
Tampa, FL 33602

DC - 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

**Tel.** Local – 813-947-6288  
DC – 202-224-2573  
Fax – 202-224-3041

Legislative assistant:

Taylor Sanchez

#### **Rick Scott**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local -801 N. Florida Ave  
Suite 421  
Tampa, FL 33602

DC - 716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

**Tel.** Local – 813-225-7040  
DC - 202-224-5274

Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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



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