



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 2

February 2023

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family.

We had another wonderful meeting in Jan with an exciting and entertaining presentation by our very own 1st VP Bill Kirkpatrick. Come on out and join us on the 1st Wed of the month for two hours of fellowship, great food, interesting and important chapter information, and dynamic speakers. At the Feb meeting, we will have Ms. Jill Andrew, a Dementia Specialist, with an informative and relevant presentation for our members.

As part of our advocacy mission, we will be conducting clean-up and maintenance at 'My Warrior's Place' the last week in Feb. We'll let the members know as soon as the specific day is determined. Let's support Kelly Kowall and her limited staff and volunteers as they grow the vision of this retreat center for veterans, 1st responders, and their families. Come on out and bring a friend.

Operation Warm Heart, led by the 1st SGTs at MacDill AFB, is another of our advocacy organizations. At the Feb meeting, a representative will give a short presentation on the program, mission, and accomplishments. We will also present them with a donation.

The Board would like every member to feel they are truly a part of the MOAA Sun City Center Chapter family. I challenge you to get involved and meet the members. There are a few opportunities for you to consider: 1) photographer at the monthly meetings. We need pictures for the newsletter, local newspaper, Facebook, and web page; 2) serve as back-up to work the reception/sign-in table; 3) collect \$ for the 50/50 and determine winnings. Call or text me at 301-529-4301 and tell me you accept the challenge.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. It is a privilege. If you need us, the Board and I are here to help.

I look forward to seeing you on Feb 1st. Call someone, invite them, or bring them to the meeting. Till then, stay safe, be blessed, and *Never Stop Serving*.

February Program

Jill Andrew, Certified Dementia Practitioner

Our enthralling February program will be presented by Certified Dementia Practitioner, Jill Andrew. The topic of the presentation is *Dementia? Alzheimer's? Oh My! Now what?* She will discuss types and signs of dementia as well as coping techniques for the caregiver. One out of two over the age of 79 will suffer from some type of dementia



so everyone will benefit from the knowledge gained from this presentation. She is certified by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

Jill was born in Ohio and raised in western Pennsylvania. She attended college at Edinboro University, PA

Jill spent seven years in the United States Army, with three years stationed in Germany. She was award-

ed Distinguished Honor Graduate in basic training, and two Good Conduct and two Army Commendation Medals.

Jill is the Director of Marketing at Tessera of Brandon, an Independent, Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Brandon, FL.

Among Jill's myriad accomplishments and acknowledgements, she is the Director of children's ministry at Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale, is a two-time president of the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce, was twice businessperson & ambassador of the year, and holds the distinct honor of Riverview Citizen of the Year. She was the 2008 administrator of the year for the Florida Assisted Living Association. If that's not enough, she was the international recipient of the Silver Pyramid Award by the Promotional Products Association International for her design of the Mood Cycle color changing red cup for hydration for dementia.

Among other interesting facts, Jill served as a restaurant executive chef, is an avid golfer, and travels as a missionary to Honduras!

Jill says her mission is to "inspire, serve and make God laugh."

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:

- ❖ Galen J. Rose, Lt Col. USAF (Ret) Sharon
- ❖ Terrence L. Hueser, Captain, USA (Res)
- ❖ Gary Marston, Captain, USAF (Ret). Frances

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ Edward McEvoy, LTC, USA

- ❖ 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 - 1 FEBRUARY LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 29 January 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:

- Italian Sausage & Peppers
- Chicken Parmesan
- Onion Crusted Salmon

Stuffed Shells with Marinara Sauce (Vegetarian), & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

Somewhere I read that retirement was supposed to be THE GOLDEN YEARS. I am still looking for the GOLD as I get older each year. As I look around at my aging friends, I wonder if they have found the GOLD. They seem happy as we gather together, even though many of them have ailments that I won't discuss. I believe as we get older, we are more thankful for the many blessings we have rather than dwelling on our misgivings. All of us have had many accomplishments in our lives and probably will leave a good legacy when we are gone. For that, we can be thankful as we continue to look for the GOLD.

I will leave you an excerpt from my "Daily Devotions for Seniors" by Christine A. Dallman.

Certainly, being old is a matter of perspective, as Lillian Carter, the mother of former President Carter, reminded the public at age 85 when she said, "Sure, I'm for helping the elderly. I'm going to be old myself one day."

The "grandparents" of each generation bring an indispensable gentleness to life along with a certain steadiness. The comfort and reassurance these qualities bring to a community are what the young, and especially children, so desperately need as they face an often harsh and uncaring world.

Gentleness and stability are strengths that run deep and wide. They are but two of the many refreshing positives that seniors bring to a culture that has become parched by negative influences. Like a drink of cool water in the desert, seniors are desperately needed today... and tomorrow... and the next day... and always.

Dear God, I pray that as the younger generations need what our generation brings to life, let us be there for them. Amen.

BOARD APPROVES NEW CHAPTER BADGE

To address a complaint from members that they have difficulty reading members names on our current badge, the Board approved the design for a new badge. The new design allows for larger print and will be used for officer, surviving spouse and spouse badges as the pictures show. Our badges are \$10.00 each and if you would like one of the new badges, please see Bill Patterson or Walt Cawein.



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.



Legislative Liaison Corner

February Update

Joseph Muhlberger

The new Congress is in place and sworn in. How do we remain abreast of actions being taken by our legislative representatives? The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) introduces a new program called the Legislative Action Center. Become a member by going to <https://moaa.quorum.us/>, once there go to "Sign Up", and enter your information. Once you are Signed Up you will receive a text message welcoming you to this grassroots program. Reply with the word "START". Once done, you'll receive the latest on legislative activities being taken by MOAA on Capital Hill.

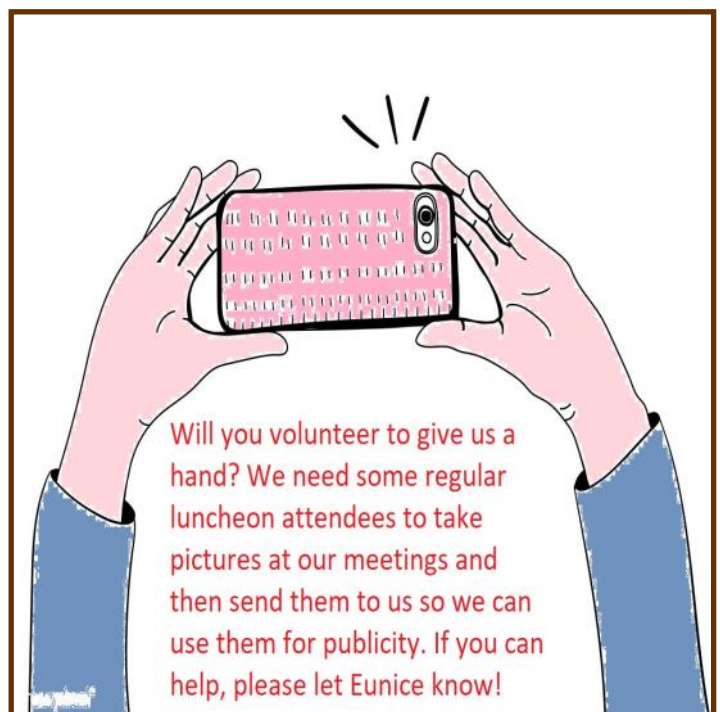
Like all good television commercials convey, "But wait! There's more!" Once you're at <https://moaa.quorum.us/> you can learn more about this new program by going to the button marked "Action Center Tutorial." Here you'll learn that the Legislative Action Center is where the "Take Action" items have been moved to. Clicking to the old links should take you to the new Legislative Action Center website. Here you'll be able to find an updated way to contact your lawmakers. The new system is intended to be easier-to-navigate.

You may read about this in the January 2023 edition of Military Officer Magazine, but I wanted to include this list here, it's MOAA's legislative priorities for 2023. Here's the list: Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits, Military Housing, Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees, Health Care and Benefits for Veterans, Service Families, Survivors, and Guard and Reserves. So there's the list, you're now encouraged to go to pages 12, 13, and 14 for the details of these headers. Once you've read the details you'll be better informed and better positioned to return to website <https://moaa.quorum.us/>, scroll down to the heading "Active Legislative Campaigns."

Under the heading of "Active Legislative Campaigns" you'll find a list of topics of legislative interest with a brief explanation which correlates with the previously mentioned magazine article. For example, one topic of legislative interest listed is "Tell Congress You Oppose TRICARE for Life Fees." While there you have the option to click on the button marked "Write."

Pressing "Write" will open a window with pre-written letters that go directly your legislatures, for most of us those will be US Senator Marco Rubio, US Senator Rick Scott, and US Representative Vern Buchanan. By selecting "Submit Selected Letters" these letters are sent on your behalf. Once submitted you'll learn how many actions have already been taken and the number of actions needed to reach the next goal. Additionally, you'll learn details about the significance of taking this action. In this case, a note reads, "A recent Congressional Budget Office report includes two proposals among its options to cut the deficit that would increase costs for seniors using the TRICARE for Life (TFL) benefit. Although these are just concepts, not legislation, it's important to let Congress know we strongly oppose any plans to reduce the earned TFL benefit."

Herein, you've been introduced to MOAA's newest platform developed and put into motion so we have a more direct voice to our legislatures, the Legislative Action Center. This program becomes key for us to use as we step forward in support of our MOAA 2022 to 2026 Strategic Plan whose mission is "To preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through Advocacy, Leadership, Education, and Service" as provided on Page 6 of the 2022 MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs Leaders Workbook.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

February is the month of love and hearts! So, let's talk about hearts. Lisa Marie Presley's cardiac arrest at the age of 54 was a shock to all of us. So young and so much tragedy in their family. We don't know the circumstances of her condition, however, it's a good reminder to take care of ourselves and our heart health no matter our age. The information below was provided by the FDA. There's nothing new here that we all haven't heard before but it's always good to refresh yourself and see if there are any areas you can work on to ensure you live a long, happy, and healthy life. Happy February and healthy living!! – Jeannie Stratis, Surviving Spouse Liaison, Sun City Chapter

1. Eat a heart healthy diet.

[The nutrition facts on the food label can help you make healthy food choices.](#)

- Choose foods that are 'low salt' or 'low sodium.'
- Limit foods that have 'trans fat.' Too much trans fat can cause heart attacks.
- Cut back on sugar. Sugar is also labeled as 'glucose,' 'fructose,' 'sucrose,' and 'corn syrup.'
- Get [tips on how to use the nutrition facts label.](#)

2. Manage your health conditions.

Common health problems like diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol can increase your risk of heart disease.

- Download a booklet to help you talk to your doctor about [medicines for diabetes or high blood pressure.](#)
- Take your medicines as directed. Do not stop taking your medicines until your healthcare provider says that it is OK.
- Consider using less costly generics as safe and effective alternatives to your more costly brand-name medicines. Discuss with your healthcare provider if this is an option for you and get your [questions answered.](#)
- If you have [diabetes](#), check your blood sugar level.
- Ask your healthcare provider how you should manage your health conditions during [pregnancy.](#)
- Some women need a device to help their heart work. Talk to your healthcare provider about what device is best for your heart problem.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about getting your blood pressure and cholesterol tested.

3. Get the facts about aspirin.

[Daily use of aspirin](#) to prevent a heart attack or stroke is not right for everyone.

- Ask your healthcare provider if you should use aspirin.
- If aspirin is right for you, find out:
 - how much you should take.
 - how often you should take it.
 - how long you should take aspirin. Some products combine aspirin with other ingredients and are not meant for long-term use.
- Tell your healthcare provider about all medicines and supplements you take. Your risk of bleeding may be higher if you use aspirin while also taking certain medicines, vitamins, or herbs.
- Get the facts on [using aspirin to prevent heart attack and stroke.](#)

4. Know the signs of a heart attack.

The signs of a heart attack can be different for women than they are for men.

- Unusual or unexplained tireHeavy ache in your chest or back between your shoulder blades
- Sharp pain in your upper body
- Shortness of breath
- Breaking out in a cold sweat
- dness
- Feeling dizzy or light-headed
- Feeling sick to your stomach

While the most common symptom for both women and men is chest discomfort, you can have a heart attack without experiencing chest pain or pressure. Women are more likely to have other symptoms such as back pain, jaw pain, shortness of breath, indigestion, and nausea or vomiting.

Call 9-1-1 if you think you are having a heart attack.

New Commissary Grocery Pickup App Designed to Make Mobile Ordering Easier

The [commissary](#)'s grocery pickup program now has a dedicated shopping app aimed at making it easier for users to place orders on mobile devices. The curbside program, known as Click2Go, is available in all 235 commissary locations worldwide and currently doesn't carry an additional cost for use after that \$5 fee was eliminated in 2021.

In the past, online ordering has been available only via the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) website. But when used on mobile phones, that shopping system was difficult to navigate, slow to load and periodically crashed, leading to user frustration. The app, rolled out early this month, aims to improve that user experience. Users can download the free app via their specific device's app store and sign-in using their current commissaries.com login information. New accounts can also be created through the app. Account registration requires a user's DoD ID number, which can be found on military IDs or the [DS Logon system](#).


Allowing the app to access mobile location information will make it pinpoint the user's nearest military commissary. From there, shoppers can browse groceries, add coupons to their account and walk through pickup scheduling and checkout. The store's typical 5% order surcharge required by law applies to online orders and is reflected in the total at checkout.


The commissary's mobile shopping system has a few notable differences from shopping in person or using a pickup service at an off-base civilian store.

For example, in-person commissary shoppers can use paper coupons, while mobile customers can only use the digital selection offered via the app or commissary rewards card. And because Click2Go orders are fulfilled by commissary employees who are federal workers, cash tips are not expected or even permitted. That's in contrast to commissary baggers inside the store who are not federal employees and work for tips only.

Unlike many off-base stores, mobile order product substitutions at the commissary come with the price tag of the new item, even if it's more expensive than the one originally ordered. Some civilian stores instead charge whichever price is lower if the product selected by the shopper is unavailable. Commissary shoppers can elect to allow or block substitutions while placing their order, and ultimately reject substitutions at time of pickup if desired.

Meanwhile, the commissary also updated a portion of its payment system to allow shoppers to use the Military Star Card, which earns rewards in the form of Exchange gift cards, to pay for some online orders. That line of credit, managed through the [Army](#) and [Air Force](#) Exchange Service (AAFES) has been accepted at both exchanges and for in-person shopping at commissary stores since late 2017, but not for online orders. Now, the card can be used for orders via the website only -- not via the app. A commissary spokesman said they do not have an estimated date for when it will expand to the app.




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- 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

2022 Memorial Day Sponsor




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SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER

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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.



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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.



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Military Officers Association of America
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