



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 6

June 2023

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family.

The May meeting was amazing! A huge 'thank you' to everyone that attended and made the meeting a tremendous success. Dr. Susan MacManus did not disappoint. Make sure to read the article and pictures submitted by our board member, Ferris Garrett.

At the June meeting, CAPT Dick Petrucci will be the speaker and will inform us about the sinking of the USS Scorpion. Don't forget that the June meeting is the last meeting before our summer break. Enjoy the summer (strange to say since it seems it's summer all year long) and the break (sounds like a school break 😊). We will not meet in July or August; we will resume our meetings on September 6th. We are already coordinating speakers and programs to ensure we continue having enjoyable and informative meetings throughout the year.

In cooperation with several other veteran and civilian organizations, the Memorial Day event will take place on Monday, May 29th at 10 AM at the Kings Point Veterans Center. Please refer to the information in the newsletter. Join family members as we celebrate the lives of veterans that have passed since last Memorial Day.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, June 6th. Call someone, invite them, or bring them to the meeting. Till then, stay safe, be blessed, and *Never Stop Serving*.

May 2023 Program

CAPT Dick Petrucci, USN (Ret)

Dick hails from Westport, CT. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961 and was a Naval Aviator for twenty-five years, retiring as a Captain in 1986. During his Navy career, he had four squadron tours, including a P-3 instructor in the Fleet Readiness Squadron, VP-30, and command of Patrol Squadron 26 at NAS Brunswick, Maine. Dick's Navy experience also includes Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College, a tour at the U.S. Naval Academy, and three senior staff assignments in Washington, D.C.



After retirement in 1986, Dick joined Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company (LMAS) in Marietta, GA as a senior engineer. He was a member of the concept development team for the EC-5B World-Wide Airborne Command Post and flight station design teams on both the C-130J and Orion 2000 programs. He retired from Lockheed Martin in 1998 and moved to Florida.

Dick has Airline Transport Pilot and flight instructor ratings with over 7,800 hours of total pilot time. He was awarded the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for 50 years of accident-free flying. Dick is also a volunteer FAA Safety Team Representative conducting safety programs and lectures to the local Sarasota area pilots.

Captain Petrucci will give a presentation on his participation in the operation to recover the submarine USS Scorpion.

2022/2023 Chapter Officers

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Legislative Affairs

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 164 Chapter Members
- 94 Regular LIFE members
- 24 Regular ANNUAL members
- 41 Regular BASIC members
- 28 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ Gershon Klein, Colonel, ARNG, (Ret) Goldie
- ❖ John E. Fielding, Major, ARNG, (Ret) Allyson
- ❖ Thelma Lucht Pearl, LTJG, USN (Fmr)

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ David Cory, LT COL, USAF, 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 - 7 June LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 4 June 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 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:

- Meatloaf
- Fried Chicken
- Butter Crumb Baked Cod, Tartar Sauce

Mashed Potatoes, Gravy & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

The May 3 Luncheon/Meeting was great. We not only had over 100 people in attendance, but we also had a great presentation by Dr. Susan MacManus on the state of politics, both in Florida and the Nation. Kudos to Bob & Marion Pitcher for efficiently getting everyone checked in at the reception table. Also, Banquet Masters, on our request, set up an extra serving line which helped to get everyone served in less than 15 minutes, leaving more time for our speaker. The joint meeting with MOWW worked very well as each organization scaled down what they would normally do at a regular meeting.

The devotion for this month is titled "SETTING THE EXAMPLE."

Every man who seeks God is leading the way for others. The question is, are you living up to the life of Christ in you, or are you slipping back into old habits and patterns?

The Apostle Paul knew his life was being watched. His example mattered. Your children, your friends, and the unbelievers who surround you every day are watching too. You may not think about it but it's true. Paul took that responsibility seriously.

To be a good example, you ought to follow the example of others who are ahead of you on the path of spiritual growth. Paul wrote, "Keep your eyes on those who live as we do" (Philippians 3:17 NIV). You set an example by following the example of others.

Moreover, you must have integrity. It isn't about putting your best foot forward or presenting a handsome veneer that hides the truth. How you handle your flaws and failures, how you deal with challenges and difficulties, and how you respond to temptation are part of that example.

People of true integrity are in short supply. Determine to be one.



We need some volunteers to sit at the luncheon reception table to check people in. June will be Bob and Marion Pitchers' last month at the table. If you are a regular attendee or just come occasionally, you can still volunteer. We hope

to have several volunteers so you will only be needed when you come to the luncheon. Volunteers would start at 10:30 am on the day of the luncheon. Contact Benny Blackshire, 813-260-3105 if you can be a primary or back-up receptionist.

His creative juices are flowing as he ponders the changes, updates, and additions to our web site:

sccmoaa.org



But he needs help! Looking for a **webmaster** to maintain our web page. Let us know if you are up to the challenge.

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>

**Memorial Day Ceremony
Monday May 29th**



**With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember**

Ceremony starts at 10 a.m.
In the Kings Point
Veterans Theater
North Club House
1900 Clubhouse Dr. SCC

**A Roll Call of Veterans who died during the past
year will be held concurrently with our traditional
LIVING FLAG TRIBUTE**

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Mike Owens
Hillsborough County Commissioner**

**A Musical Interlude will be presented by
The Trinity Baptist Church Singers
Colors will be presented by the
Sheriff's Office Color Guard**

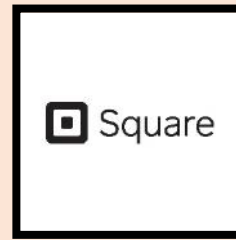
**Doors will open at 9 a.m. Free Entry
The Public is invited.**

Guests are to be seated by 9:50 a.m.
Sponsored by the Combined Veterans
Organizations of Sun City Center

Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Committee held its first Military Benefits Forum at SCC Community Hall in April. Based on attendance, participation, surveys, and email feedback, the event was an enormous success! We had over 180 in attendance for the 2-hour event. We heard from subject matter experts from the VA and MacDill's Warrior Care Program on benefits available to those who have served and to those who have cared for them. Those in attendance were able to ask questions and get some much-needed answers. Our participants included veterans, military spouses, surviving spouses, and caregivers from all services, branches, and ranks. Plans are in the works for our next forum toward the end of summer. If you have any questions or need any information regarding benefits, you can email moaasc survivors@gmail.com and one of our volunteers will respond.



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



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.

June Military Anniversaries & Observances

- D-Day (June 6, 1944)
- Flag Day (June 14)
- Army Birthday (June 14, 1775)
- Anniversary of start of Korean War (1950)
- Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (June 27, 1953)

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

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



Military Benefits Forum



Last Month's Program

A Full House – May 3, 2023, Luncheon

The May 3rd luncheon was a combined MOAA/MOWW event so that members from both Chapters could dine together and experience the presentation by guest speaker, Dr. Susan McManus. She is a USF Distinguished University Professor (Political Science) emerita and a recognized expert political analyst. For about the last 10 years, she has been the guest speaker at the May MOAA luncheon. The event was a complete success with 104 meals served after brief organization President/Commander business discussions. The last hour was reserved for the presentation by Dr. McManus, including Q&A. The photograph shows a full Florida Room with 14 tables, all with eight place settings. The luncheon attendance of 104 members/guests set a record over the last 10 years.

At the end, the MOAA President, COL Eunice Paxtot, USA (Ret) thanked Dr. McManus for her presentation and insight into Local, State, and National politics and the time she devoted to our military veterans' organizations over the years. She presented Dr. McManus with a MOAA Chapter Certificate of Appreciation, thanked her again and expressed her desire to see her again next year!

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>





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- Financial Assistance in critical times of need
- 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 Sargeants 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

2023 Memorial Day Sponsor

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Legislative Liaison Corner

June 2023 Update

Joseph Muhlberger

As our Chapter Legislative Liaison, I found myself invited by Congresswoman Laurel Lee to participate in a Congressional Subcommittee regarding Elections. It was a roundtable on Military Voting. The meeting took place on May 4th at MacDill AFB. Led by Congresswoman Lee, the forum included Supervisors of Elections from multiple counties around the State of Florida. Those invited included veterans from a variety of veterans organizations and former and current spouses of veterans. The backgrounds of invitees ranged from business owners, those with legal careers, and volunteers. The goal was to garner historical perspectives about military voting from past and present military members and family members for consideration with the upcoming generation coming of age to vote.



Congresswoman Laurel Lee and Chapter Legislative Liaison

Information gathered during the roundtable was extensive. Registering to vote in one's respective home of record is critical for a servicemember and their voting-age family members, this is critical for ensuring one vote is cast per voting constituent. This

allows Florida residents assigned away from home the opportunity to vote from their location of assignment either with a paper ballot or by way of a specific e-mail determined at the time of registering to vote. Additionally, those away from home who are assigned within the State of Florida are

allowed the opportunity to vote where they are registered to vote. Florida residents outside of the state complete their ballot and mail it in within predetermined timelines.

In the case of Florida residents, once an absentee ballot is received by an Elections Board the voter's information is compared to the information provided at the time of registration. The goal is to eliminate voter fraud and ensure one vote is cast per voter. Several security measures are built into the systems across Florida to prevent voter fraud within the framework of absentee ballots cast by members of our military and their voting-age family members.

During the two days leading up to the roundtable, Hillsborough County Supervisor of Election Craig Latimer was in the news defending the voting process which had come under criticism. He attended the roundtable. He reinforced the importance of reassuring our military and their family members of a fair election process.

Unique to the military are courts-martial which carry federal convictions. A federal conviction equates to a loss of voting rights. During the roundtable, the process was overviewed for those convicted of a court-martial being prevented from participating in elections. Military service branches make notifications to state boards of elections who in turn decline ballots cast by felons convicted by military courts-martial.

It was an unexpected honor to directly represent veterans at this roundtable. Having spent 19 years overseas during my 36 years on active duty, my family and I were able to participate in absentee voting on several occasions. Attending this get-together allowed me to provide my experiences face-to-face with our legislative body.



Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

PRESERVE YOUR MILITARY HISTORY .



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**

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(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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Kyle Joshua Hill

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

