



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 40 Number 3

March 2024

President's Message

CDR Bill "Bullet" Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

Hello Sun City Center Chapter members. We had an outstanding turnout for our February luncheon. An atmosphere of camaraderie, community, and friendship was fully evident. A delicious, wholesome lunch and a riveting presentation by our own Dan Matz topped off a very enjoyable gathering.

We need your help. At our recent Board meeting, our Treasurer indicated that less than 40% of our Chapter members had paid their 2024 dues. We need your help because your dues pay for awards and grants to groups in the local community. We give awards to the 10 most deserving JROTC Cadets at 10 local High Schools. We also give outright grants to praiseworthy groups like "My Warriors Place," "Operation Warm Heart," and others.



Last month, the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) held its yearly Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando. The FCoC is an affiliate of MOAA and has more than 10,000 members from 42 Chapters, from the Florida Panhandle to the Florida Keys. Over two-thirds of your SCC Board attended this extremely beneficial training. There were a number of key topics covered but chief emphasis was placed on retaining membership and recruiting new members. An easy way to do this was suggested by our moderator—bring an eligible friend or acquaintance to one of our luncheons. You may find out more information about FCoC by reading their newsletter "Communique." <https://moaafi.org/Communique.aspx>

Our next luncheon is on March 6th. If you are planning on bringing an eligible prospective member with you, please inform Benny Blackshire about bringing a guest. I hope to see you all there and will attempt to bring 1 or 2 guests.

March Program

Lee dePalo, Manatee County Director of Community and Veterans Services

Lee dePalo is the Director of Community and Veterans Services (CVS) Department at Manatee County. CVS is focused on enhancing the quality of life for its residents, with a special commitment to Veterans and their families, through a wide range of services, development projects, and community engagement initiatives. He plans to speak about what CVS does to support our veterans, but he will also discuss FEMA's response to COVID.



Lee spent most of his career in public service but joined Manatee county after two years in the private sector where he served as the Chief Operating Officer for an emergency management startup. Prior to that, Lee was a member of the Senior Executive Service and served as the Regional Administrator for FEMA Region VIII.

Lee is a U.S. Air Force veteran whose career spanned 26 years, 14 locations, and multiple combat deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkey. He was a career special operations and combat rescue helicopter pilot with over 3800 hours primarily in MH-60G "Pave Hawk" and HH-3E "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters.

Lee graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He also holds a Master of Strategic Studies degree from Air War College and a Master of Arts degree in management from Webster University.

2023/2024 Chapter Officers

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DIRECTOR

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

Chaplain

\$19.00 - 6 March LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 3 March 2024

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:

- Corned Beef and Cabbage-Horseradish & Mustard
- 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

Thank you to those that volunteered to help at Memorial Day, May 27, 2024. We still need more volunteers so consider helping Ferris Garrett as an usher or being part of the Living Flag Tribute (LFT). FLT volunteers carry a small flag and march in just before the ceremony begins and then stand one at a time when the names of the deceased veterans names are called. You have the best seats in the house. If you have never attended this ceremony, you should volunteer, represent MOAA, and be guaranteed a seat. We have 600-700 people attend the King's Point Veterans Theater for the ceremony. March and April luncheons will be your last chance to volunteer. Please help.

I will leave you with this short story titled "**Freedom's Cost**" from **In God We STILL Trust**, by Dr. Richard G. Lee. A wise person once said, "Freedom is never free."

Nathan Hale (1755-1776) was a schoolteacher when the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775. After hearing about the siege of Boston in a letter from a friend, Hale joined his five brothers in the fight for independence.

Hale fought under General George Washington in New York as British General William Howe began a military buildup on Long Island. When Washington asked for a volunteer to go on a spy mission behind enemy lines, Hale stepped forward. For a week he gathered information on the position of British troops, but he was captured while returning to the American side. Because of the incriminating papers Hale possessed, the British knew he was a spy. Howe ordered the twenty-year-old Hale to be hanged the following day without a trial.

Patriot Nathan Hale was hanged on September 22, 1776. Before he gave his life for his country, he made a short speech, ending with these famous and inspiring words:

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

As John Quincy Adams said, "You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it." We must do all we can to protect the freedoms that generations past have entrusted to us.

Patriot's Prayer: *Almighty God, may we as a nation be ever grateful for the men and women who have given – or are today giving – their lives to give us freedom. Amen.*

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

<https://sccmoaa.org>



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://moaaf.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>

We need you for JROTC!

Jeff Camp, JROTC Liaison

Spring is the time of year where we looking forward to all the new blossoms, and it is also when we recognize our emerging leaders. The Junior Reserve Officer's Training Program (JROTC) begins its award ceremonies this March and continues through until the end of May.

The MOAA JROTC award program recognizes an outstanding cadet in his or her next-to-last year in the program who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership (exceptional academic achievement in the case of the Marine Corps JROTC program). MOAA presents the chosen cadet with a medal and certificate to acknowledge their achievement. The presentation of an MOAA JROTC medal and certificate is an excellent way for our chapter to gain exposure in the community, advertise the chapter, and, at the same time, foster a positive military recognition among the youth of the community.

The award consists of a red, white, and blue ribbon with a bronze disc pendant and a matching service ribbon. These items are in a presentation case. The cadet will also receive a certificate presented in a folder. These items will be presented during the program's awards ceremony.

To be eligible for an award, a candidate must be in the next-to-last year of a JROTC program;

- be in good academic standing;
- be of high moral character;
- demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country;
- and demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.



I need your help. As a chapter, we take great pride in presenting this ribbon in person. The Sun City Center Chapter covers ten schools across Hillsborough County, many of which are a distance from us. I would like to ask if we have volunteers who would be willing to travel to the ceremonies to present our award. While I can cover some of the schools, I am looking for volunteers to travel in particular to Newsome High in Lithia on Wednesday 24 April, Brandon on Friday 26 April and Plant City on Friday 3 May. If you are interested in representing our chapter and presenting the MOAA JROTC Award to a deserving young leader, please contact me @312-342-0531 or colcamp@icloud.com.

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
 - 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 | \$ _____ |



Support Your MOAA Charities

Cash

You may contribute to the MOAA Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation in memory of a loved one, friend, or colleague, or to commemorate a special occasion. Each Fund will acknowledge your gift by sending a letter to the person(s) you designate. Please be sure to include the appropriate names and addresses with your gift.

Checks can be mailed to:

MOAA Scholarship Fund
PO Box 1824
Merrifield, VA 22116-9917

The MOAA Foundation
PO Box 1555
Merrifield, VA 22116-9917

You can also donate online using a credit card at www.moaa.org/donate

Securities

It may be to your financial advantage to give marketable securities - stocks, bonds, or mutual funds - instead of cash as a gift to the MOAA Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation.

Any securities you have owned for more than 12 months that have increased in value since you bought them are subject to long-term capital gains tax when you sell them. However, if you make a gift of these securities to The Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation, you can save twice - once when you receive a charitable deduction for the securities' fair market value as of the day of transfer, and again when you avoid the taxes on capital gains. Consult your financial advisor regarding the details of such a transaction.

For more information and instructions on how to transfer your securities to the MOAA Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation, email our Development office at development@moaa.org or call (800) 234-6622.

Do Business Cards Still Matter?

By: Erin Cardinal

Think about the last time you were at an event and collected a bunch of business cards. What did you do with them when you got home? Be honest.

My guess: Cards from people who you couldn't remember ended up in the trash, and you kept a few from people you planned to contact ... maybe the ones with a note or a star on the back as a reminder.

In a networking setting, the business card is a means to an end – connection. Whether you have a paper or digital business card matters a lot less than ensuring *you have one*. Your card is both a practical tool and a personal-professional branding medium.

Building a Better Card

Do not overthink your business card. Make it as user-friendly as possible. If you've decided to go the traditional, printed route, consider the following:

Keep it simple. Your name, email, and phone number will suffice. Feel free to add your LinkedIn QR code or link, but avoid too much clutter.

Finish strong. Use a matte finish, not a shiny gloss, so either you or your contact can make a note on the card without a smudge or an ink-stained finger.

Stock options. Use a white or light-colored stock card – notes made by a blue or black pen should be easily readable.

Include a rank? That's up to you. If you are targeting the defense sector, your rank can show you have experience in the industry. If you are not targeting that space, consider leaving it off. Still not sure? Consider making two sets – it won't break the bank!

Want to learn more tips and best practices for transition, or find upcoming opportunities to get your card (and yourself) into circulation? Check out [MOAA's events page](#) for upcoming seminars, webinars, career fairs, and much more!

3rd Short-Term Funding Extension Will Keep Government Open Until March

By: Cory Titus

President Joe Biden signed legislation Jan. 19 to temporarily extend federal funding into March, averting a partial government shutdown.

The House and Senate approved the continuing resolution in bipartisan votes after congressional leaders reached a broader agreement on spending levels through September 2024. The stopgap measure buys lawmakers additional time to finalize the \$1.59 trillion appropriations legislation and clear both chambers.

The continuing resolution finances federal operations at current levels through March 1 for most agencies and March 8 for others, including DoD. This marks the third short-term extension since September.

The latest continuing resolution staves off imminent funding disruption while negotiations proceed on the broader spending package. Lawmakers will utilize the coming weeks to translate the agreed [budget framework](#) into detailed appropriations language needed to keep the government running past March.

Congress must reach a funding deal by April 30 to avoid an automatic 1% across-the-board budget cut, as required by the Fiscal Responsibility Act passed in June 2023. MOAA urges all members to contact their lawmakers immediately and demand they finalize full-year appropriations to avert further disruption.

[Write your lawmakers today to make your voice heard](#) – Congress needs to pass the funding bills our community relies upon.



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Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Some of our surviving spouses got together for lunch at Ybor Grille and had a fabulous time chatting and making plans for future gatherings. We are heading to Southeastern Guide Dogs for a tour soon. Look for pics on our chapter's Facebook page, MOAA Sun City Center Chapter.



SAVE THE DATE! Our second annual Military Benefits Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the Sun City Center Community Hall from 1-3pm. We will have guest speakers giving us updates on VA Benefits, Surviving Spouse issues, and Veteran Health information. More details and information to follow.

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
newsletter@sccmoaa.org

Submitting Articles and Pictures for *Military Officers Call*

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best (Arial or Calibri 12). You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter.

Pictures should have a .jpg or .png extension. If you are sending pictures, please include the activity and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers. Please ensure that you have the permission of the persons in the photos for publishing.

If you have questions about your submission, contact Cliff Korn newsletter@sccmoaa.org.

Sun City Center Chapter member Maj George Bodmer, USA, passed away January 30th, 2024, at Sun City Center Hospice House, at the age of 85. George served 10 years in the army as an officer and spent 2 years in Viet Nam. Condolences are offered to his wife Sally and the entire Bodmer Family.



George was a man of many accomplishments and loved life. He will be missed by many.

Member Spotlight

Major Kirk Faryniasz, USAF (Ret)



Kirk Faryniasz served for 31 years. His career started with a three-year Army stint as a Public Affairs NCO. During college, he continued to serve in the Army Reserve and Vermont National Guard. In 1981, he was commissioned in the Air Force and attended Navigator Training at Mather AFB, CA.

His flying career was as a C-5 Galaxy and C-141 Starlifter navigator where he had over 5,000 hours. He also did tours in USAF Air Force Recruiting as a marketing officer and at the Joint Recruiting Advertising Program in a similar role. His final assignment was with the Army's First Infantry Division where he was responsible for air movement for the division in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon retirement, he worked in sales for Lindt Sprungli Chocolatiers for eleven years. This was followed by a six-year stint with National Beverage Corporation representing LaCroix Sparkling Water.

He has been involved with MOAA since his retirement in 2005. He is a past president of our SCC chapter. He officiates five different sports throughout Florida. Kirk resides in Riverview with his wife of 28 years AJ who volunteers with several organizations. They both enjoy scuba diving.



We support military men and women with funds from individuals and organizations who care.

The Many Ways MFST and YOU Help Military Families

- 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
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mfst.us

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David J. Gauthier

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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
newsletter@sccmoaa.org

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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.
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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)



Sun City Center Chapter
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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Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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