



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 3

March 2023

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family.

If you didn't join us in Feb, you missed another great meeting. We had great turnout, a delicious meal, and a fantastic speaker. Jill Andrews turned a sad and complex topic like dementia into an informative and captivating topic. Mark your calendar. Come on out. Join us on Mar 1st. We're going to hear about the exciting things CENTCOM is doing.

You still have time to sign up for our 'hours of service' at My Warrior's Place, 101 22nd St, Ruskin, on Tues, Feb 28th, at 9:30. Call or text me at 301-529-4301 and let me know you will join us. Bring someone with you. I'd like to let the MWP staff know how many of us will be there. They will have the tasks and equipment/material ready for us when we arrive. Don't forget to bring a bag lunch.

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

It is an exciting time for MOAA! Hear our new National President, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret), discuss his plans for MOAA in the short and the long term. To listen to this Veteran's Corner Radio broadcast, click on the link below.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/952243/11961074>

March Program

Brigadier General STEPHEN P. SNELSON

Brig. Gen. Stephen P. Snelson serves as the Deputy Director of Operations, U.S. Central Command. In his current role, he is responsible for developing contingency plans and assisting the Director of Operations and the Commander with overseeing joint operations across a 21-Nation area of responsibility, including the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and the strategic waterways surrounding them.



Brig. Gen. Snelson was commissioned in 1997 as a Distinguished Graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. He commanded at multiple echelons, including the 305th Operations Support Squadron, was the Vice Commander, 62nd Airlift Wing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, commanded the 6th

Air Refueling Wing at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and commanded the 89th Airlift Wing at JB Andrews, Maryland, where he was responsible for worldwide special air missions providing airlift for the President, Vice President, cabinet members, combatant commanders, and other senior military and elected leaders. He has flown operational missions worldwide, including combat missions supporting operations Allied Force, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

Brigadier General Snelson will brief the group on March 1, 2023, on how Air Power fits in with contingency planning. He will outline current weapons platforms' capabilities, including the inception and employment of the U.S. Space Force.

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:

- ❖ Lynn Barrett, Capt, USAF (Fmr) Thomas
- ❖ Thomas Barrett Jr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret) Lynn
- ❖ Stephen Browning, Capt, USAF (Fmr) Jackie
- ❖ Michelle Halcomb, LCDR, USN (Fmr) Mark
- ❖ Thomas Arthur Smith, Maj, USAF/USA (Ret) Laura
- ❖ James G. Wideman, LTC, USA, (Ret) Shalanda

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ John Dargle, LTC, USA, Moved from area
- ❖ Robert Lineweber, LTC, USA, Dropped membership
- ❖ Nerina Stepanovsky, 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 - 1 MARCH LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 26 February 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:

- Corned Beef & Cabbage-Mustard & Horseradish
- Chicken Florentine
- Baked Cod with Butter Crumb Topping

Oven Roasted Parsley Potatoes & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

What a great turnout for our February luncheon. If you missed it, I hope you will plan on joining us in March. Come out and support your local chapter.

In the Bible, the Book of Job tells us how Job lost everything. All his possession, his children, and all of his livestock. But here is how Job responded in Job 1:20-22 (NIV).

²⁰At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." ²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

We can scarcely imagine all that calamity striking in one day, though some readers have had the one thing that was dearest to them taken. Losing all is losing all regardless of if it is little or much. Surely Job's greatest loss was that of his children.

To lose even one child is worse than imaginable. How do you react to adversity?

When we read Job's reaction, we see that God was correct in His assessment of Job.

I've never seen anyone react without even a "Why God?" Job will come to that later. If you are wondering why Satan allowed his wife to live, it is because she told him to curse God and die. It was about to get even worse, as Satan does not wish to admit defeat and longed to turn Job against God. Job's response was to worship. His answer is quoted at funerals, but it should be considered throughout our lives.

We came into the world without physical things, and we will leave without them.

There has never been a moving van following a casket. The Egyptians tried, but all those treasures sit in museums. If our children go first, we will meet them one day, but our earthly treasures will go to others.

Praise the name of the LORD. Praise Him for His wisdom in bringing us to the things that last and separating us from the temporal. How attached are you to the things that you will leave behind? Consider: When we have a realization of the little value of earthly things, it is much easier to share them with others at the leading of God.

May you be blessed by reading this article. Amen.



SCC MOAA member Jeanne Picariello Murphy passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, of injuries suffered as the victim of a hit-and-run accident while on a morning walk near her home. A retired U.S. Army Colonel and the wife of SCC MOAA member and Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D. During her 30-year career in the military, she served with distinction in many leadership roles in posts spanning the United States and abroad, including Europe, Latin America, South Korea, and the Middle East. Colonel Murphy served as chief of health promotion for the U.S. Southern Command in Panama and spearheaded Army health, wellness, and support programs in Germany, Virginia, in the Pentagon, and at the Army War College. She will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on April 12th.

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>

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.



Facing a Career Challenge? This Military Spouse's Story Will Motivate You

By: Brian Anderson

Whether you're a servicemember, a veteran, or a military spouse, you've invested a lot in your education and professional development. Along with finding professional success, you may feel the urge to contribute to a better world. With these skill sets and aspirations, it's not uncommon for MOAA's team of career transition consultants to encounter those who find it challenging to land suitable employment or maintain a satisfying career.

Meet Cameron Cruse. MOAA recently hosted a highly insightful conversation with this military spouse, mother of two, who never saw herself becoming the "Bag Lady."

[WATCH NOW: [The R. Riveter Story](#)]

As a successful entrepreneur and co-founder of handbag manufacturer [R. Riveter](#), Cruse set out in 2011 to provide mobile, flexible income for military spouses across the country. She knows the challenges you face and offers some tools and insights to overcome those obstacles.

A [Shark Tank survivor](#), Cruse touches on a range of strategies and tactics for you to consider in achieving your vision of success:

Start with your "why." Her light bulb moment came when she realized her "why" was to create mobile income for military spouses no matter where the military sends them.

Cruse had the "why," but still needed the "how." Her business model went from assembling items in her garage and attending local craft fairs to managing 45 employees in Florida and 35 "remote riveters" all over the nation. She encourages you to stay flexible as you begin any career or entrepreneurial journey.

Choose courage over staying comfortable when you're starting a new professional path. Be willing to try something new to see where it gets you and love what you are doing – otherwise, Cruse said, whatever you're doing won't feel like it is enough.

The goal for Cruse was never simply handbags – it was about making a positive impact, providing military spouses with an inspiration, and empowering our community to be the best it can be.

Want to hear more about the R. Riveter story and her experiences on *Shark Tank*? [Click the link](#) and receive a copy of the webinar today, and check out MOAA.org/Events for more upcoming webinars.



Shout out to the members that stepped up to the challenge and volunteered for open positions:

Reception

Julie Floyd
Gary Marston
Betsy Korn

50/50

Vivian Hodgkin
Jerry Brockmeier

Photography

Ferris Garrett
Paul Sims

Relationships built on great service

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Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Did you know that there is an additional Homestead tax exemption for veterans with a VA rating of 10% or more? If you are a surviving spouse, you can apply with a copy of your veteran's VA rating. Deadline to apply is March 1st. Click on the link for more information and the application to apply. https://www.hcpafl.org/Portals/HCPAFL/pdfs/DR-501_12-2022.pdf?ver=2022-12-28-092434-387



**PROPERTY TAX BENEFITS FOR
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND VETERANS**
Certain property tax benefits are available to members of the Armed Forces.
Property Tax Oversight

Filing and Keeping Your Homestead Exemption

When a person serving in the Armed Forces owns and uses property as a homestead, the servicemember may rent the homestead property without abandoning the claim to the homestead exemption (see section 196.061, Florida Statutes).

A servicemember's next of kin or any other person who has written authorization may file a homestead exemption claim on behalf of a servicemember who cannot file in person because of a service obligation (see s. 196.071, F.S.).

Property Tax Exemptions and Discounts

Eligibility for property tax exemptions depends on satisfying certain requirements.

Information is available from the property appraiser's office in the county where the veteran or surviving spouse owns a homestead or other property.

- An ex-servicemember who was honorably discharged, is a resident of Florida, and who is disabled to a degree of 10% or more because of misfortune or while serving during wartime may be entitled to a \$5,000 reduction in his or her property's assessed value. This exemption is not limited to homestead property. Under certain circumstances, the veteran's surviving spouse may be entitled to carry over the exemption. See Form [DR-501](#). (see s. 196.24, F.S.)
- Veterans who are Florida residents and were honorably discharged with a service-related total and permanent disability may be eligible for a total exemption from ad valorem taxes on property they own and use as their homesteads. A similar exemption is available to disabled veterans confined to wheelchairs. Under certain circumstances, the veteran's surviving spouse may be entitled to carry over the exemption. See Form [DR-501](#). (see ss. 196.081 and 196.091, F.S.)
- If they meet certain requirements, veterans 65 or older who are partially or totally permanently disabled may receive a discount on the assessed value of property that they own and use as homesteads. This discount carries over to the veteran's surviving spouse if the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead, permanently resides there and has not remarried. The discount is a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs. See Form [DR-501](#). (see s. 196.082, F.S.)



Eligible veterans who want to apply for these exemptions may apply before they receive the necessary documentation from the United States government or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor. After the property appraiser receives the documentation, the exemption will be effective as of the date of the original application. Please see the [How to Apply for a Refund](#) brochure for information about refunds.

- A member or former member of any branch of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard may receive an exemption if he or she was deployed during the previous calendar year outside the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii in support of a designated operation (the Florida Legislature designates operations for this exemption). The percent of the taxable value that is exempt for the current year corresponds to the percent of time during the previous year when the service member was deployed on a designated operation. See Form [DR-501M](#). (see s. 196.173, F.S.)

You should file all required forms and applications for these exemptions with your county property appraiser. If the property appraiser denies your application, you may file a petition with the county's value adjustment board. For more information, see [Petitions to the Value Adjustment Board](#).

The Department of Revenue's website has more information about property tax benefits for active duty military and veterans and contact information for county officials.
<http://floridarevenue.com/property/Pages/Home.aspx>

MILITARY DISCOUNTS

Here are a few local brands, businesses and products that offer military discounts.

Home Improvement Stores

Ace Hardware
Home Depot
Lowe's Home Improvement
Lumber Liquidators

Entertainment/Theme Parks

Busch Gardens
Dollywood
Disney World
Legoland
SeaWorld
Universal Studios

Hotel Military Discounts

Best Western
Hilton Hotels
Holiday Inn
Marriott
Sandals Resorts

Restaurants

Applebee's
Buffalo Wild Wings (not all restaurants)
Denny's (Veterans Day only)
IHOP (Veterans Day only)
Olive Garden (Veterans Day only)
Outback Steakhouse
Red Lobster
Texas Roadhouse

Cell Phone/Cable Military Discounts

AT&T
Motorola
SiriusXM
Sprint
T Mobile
Verizon

Computer & Electronics

Apple
Dell
HP
Lenovo
Microsoft Office
New Egg
Samsung

Airlines Military Discounts

Alaska Airlines
American Airlines
Delta Airlines
Frontier Airlines
Jetblue Airlines
Southwest Airlines
United Airlines

Travel Military Discounts

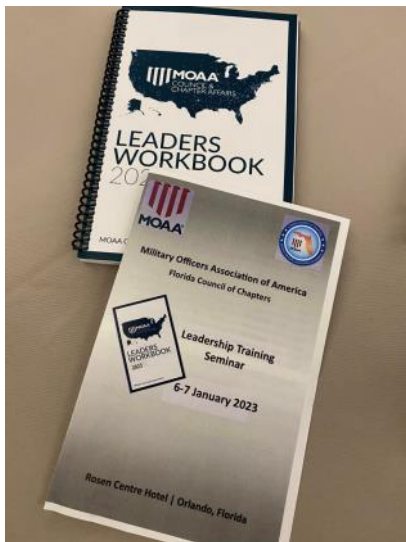
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Disney Cruises
Expedia
Greyhound
Royal Caribbean

Car Rental

Avis
Budget
Enterprise
Penske Truck

Clothing Military Discount

American Eagle
Foot Locker
Michael's
Nike
Old Navy
Target (Veterans Day)
Under Armour



The Sun City Center Chapter of MOAA continues to grow and strengthen its leadership capabilities. The Chapter sent a large contingent of its officers and directors to Orlando to attend a Leadership Training Seminar hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters. The chapter's well trained and oriented leaders are a large factor in our ability to maintain our outstanding LOE award each year.

Chapter President, Eunice Patxot accepts award from Brig Gen Gary North (USAF, Ret), Chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors, and CDR Pat Kluever, (USN, Ret), MOAA Florida Council of Chapters President.



Left to right: Director Jean Bennett Stratis, Surviving Spouse Liaison; Chapter President COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret); Chapter Secretary Harriett Jordan; Chapter Treasurer Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret); Director Lt Col Joseph Muhlberger, USAF (Ret)

Legislative Liaison Corner

March Update

Joseph Muhlberger

This edition's update centers on upcoming legislation in consideration as provided by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) found at <https://www.floridavets.org/news/veteran-legislation/>.

The 2023 Florida Legislative Session is scheduled to begin March 7 and conclude May 5. Preparatory interim committee meetings took place: January 23-27, February 6-10, 13-17, and 20-24.

House Bill (HB) 0139 by Marie Paule Woodson, Democrat, District 105 consisting of parts of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties

Benefits, Training, and Employment for Veterans and Their Spouses: Requires analysis of VETS Program; revises duties of DVA & Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to include assistance to veterans' spouses; requires DVA to create grant program for veterans' nursing degree programs; revises purpose & duties of VETS Program to include assistance to veterans' spouses & apply solely to target industry & supplemental industry businesses; requires Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to assist veterans or their spouses in accessing employment in health care professions; requires appropriate board or DOH to expedite health care licensure applications submitted by veterans; establishes Office of Veteran Licensure Services; provides duties; requires report to Governor & Legislature. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

Senate Bill (SB) 0274 by Bryan Avila, Republican, District 39 consisting of part of Miami-Dade County

Nursing Education Pathway for Military Combat Medics; Revising a primary goal of the Florida Center for Nursing to provide that development of a statewide plan for nursing manpower must include the encouragement and coordination of the development of partnerships with hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain clinical experience; requiring that the Articulation Coordinating Committee convene a workgroup to establish a process for determining postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in accredited nursing education programs for military training and education required for service in specified positions; authorizing the award of additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

HB 0339 by Taylor Michael Yakorsky, Republican, District 25 consisting of part of Lake County

Education of Dependents of Deceased or Disabled Servicemembers, Prisoners of War, and Persons Missing in Action: Revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to spouse or dependent child of deceased or disabled servicemember; revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to dependent child of prisoner of war, person missing in action, or deceased or disabled servicemember who participated in certain military operations. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

SB 0366 by Danny Burgess, Republican, District 23 consisting of parts of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

Dental Services for Veterans; Establishing the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program in the Department of Veterans' Affairs; requiring the department to contract with a direct-service organization to administer the program, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

SB 0386 by Jennifer Bradley, Republican, District 6 consisting of Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Gilchrist, Union Counties and part of Alachua County

Specialty License Plates/United Service Organizations; Directing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a United Service Organizations license plate; providing for distribution of fees collected from the sale of the plate, etc. Effective Date: October 1, 2023

HB 0417 by John Paul Temple, Republican, District 52 consisting of Sumter County and part of Hernando County

State Lottery Funding for Veterans' Assistance Education Programs: Requires Department of Lottery to create instant-ticket lottery game that benefits veterans' assistance education programs; provides that veterans' assistance education programs may be funded by Educational Enhancement Trust Fund; requires department to provide certain information to public. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

HB 0453 by Lisa Dunkley, Democrat, District 97 consisting of part of Broward County

Veterans' Assistance Grants: Requires DVA, subject to appropriation, to award grants to certain entities for purpose of increasing public awareness of benefits & services available to veterans; provides requirements for initial grant recipients; requires report to DVA as condition for consideration for subsequent grants; requires DVA to adopt rules. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

HB 0485 by Michelle Salzman, Republican, District 1 consisting of part of Escambia County

Veterans' Services and Recognition: Creates Division of Long-term Care; revises qualifications for county & city veteran service officers; creates "Veterans' Adult Day Health Care of Florida Act"; provides purpose & definitions; provides for appointment, qualifications, duties, & responsibilities of program operator; establishes nondiscrimination policy; provides program admittance eligibility & priority; provides for audits, inspections, & operational standards; designates "Veterans Week." Effective Date: July 1, 2023

SB 0502 by Darryl Ervin Rouson, Democrat, District 16 consisting of parts of Hillsborough, Pinellas Counties

Public Records/Veterans Treatment Court Programs; Providing an exemption from public records requirements for certain information of persons participating in, or considered for participation in, veterans treatment court programs; authorizing the disclosure of confidential and exempt information under certain circumstances; providing for legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

HB 0517 by Dr Joel Rudman, Republican, District 3 consisting of parts of Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties

Nursing Education for Military Combat Medics: Revising a primary goal of the Florida Center for Nursing to provide that development of a statewide plan for nursing manpower must include the encouragement and coordination of the development of partnerships with hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain clinical experience; requiring that the Articulation Coordinating Committee convene a workgroup to establish a process for determining postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in accredited nursing education programs for military training and education required for service in specified positions; authorizing the award of additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

SB 0550 by Danny Burgess, Republican, District 23 consisting of parts of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

Education of Dependents of Deceased or Disabled Servicemembers, Prisoners of War, and Persons Missing in Action; Defining the term "servicemember"; revising eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by the state to a spouse or dependent child of a deceased or disabled servicemember; revising eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by the state to a dependent child of a prisoner of war or a person missing in action; revising eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by the state to a dependent child of a deceased or disabled servicemember who participated in certain military operations, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

SB 0632 by Bobby Powell, Democrat, District 24 consisting of part of Palm Beach County


Veterans' Preference in Promotion; Requiring the state and its political subdivisions to give preference in promotion in positions of employment to certain veterans or their relatives; requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt certain rules to ensure veterans are given special consideration in the promotion process; requiring a numerically based selection process to be used to determine qualifications for promotion; providing for an investigation and administrative hearing of a complaint regarding not being awarded a promotion according to veterans' promotion preference, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

HB 0635 by Patt Maney, Republican, District 4 consisting of part of Okaloosa County

Dental Services for Veterans: Establishes Veterans Dental Care Grant Program in Department of Veterans' Affairs; specifies purpose of program; requires department to contract with direct-service organization to administer program; requires department to adopt rules; provides that program funding is subject to legislative appropriation. Effective Date: July 1, 2023

HB 0687 by Kimberly Daniels, Democrat, District 14 consisting of part of Duval County

Veterans' Preference for Promotion: Requires state & political subdivisions to give veterans' preference in employment promotion; authorizes waiver of postsecondary educational requirements; requires DVA to adopt rules to ensure veterans' preference in promotion; requires numerically based selection process to be used to determine qualifications for promotion; requires preference in promotion in positions for which numerically based selection process is not used; provides for investigation & administrative hearing of complaint regarding veterans' promotion preference; provides that military retirement on basis of longevity does not disqualify person from veterans' promotion preference. Effective Date: July 1, 2023



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- 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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"This is historical fiction and will give the reader insight into one of the pivotal battles of the Vietnam war. Matt's work putting this together was prodigious. I don't know how he did it. As a historical novel, I think it is great."

General Walter Boomer, US Marine Corps (Ret)
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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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To complete enrollment:

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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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Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

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