



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 38 Number 11

November 2022

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family. If you did not attend the September meeting, you missed out on another great meeting. We had the opportunity to see our friends and colleagues, and we had a delicious meal and an excellent presentation by Mr. David Dunning, Director of the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. He provided updates on the latest legislative accomplishments, a synopsis of how the medical centers operated during Hurricane Ian, and as a response to an inquiry, provided information on items we can donate to support the vets that use the medical centers for their care. We are still coordinating with Mr. Dunning and will provide more information at a later date.

As our bylaws require, the November meeting will be our annual meeting. We will adopt the revised bylaws and vote for the following year's officers serving on the board. I'm thankful and appreciate the chapter members who have accepted the challenge to serve on the board or as volunteers. We serve a worthy cause in support of our veterans.

As a reminder, CAPT Erin Stone (USN) and COL Steve Bond (USA) from the MOAA National Office will visit us during the meeting and with the board following the general meeting in the Sandpiper Room. Members are invited to attend if they desire.

The chapter directory was emailed to all the members last week. Send me your corrections and changes; I will make the changes on the master copy so that the follow-on update will be as concise as possible.

At the Sept. meeting, I encouraged you to join us in our goals to 1) increase attendance at our monthly meetings, 2) recruit members (our goal is 12 for the year), and 3) retain all eligible members. Call someone and invite them to the Nov meeting. I look forward to seeing you on the 2nd. Till then, stay safe, be blessed, and *never stop serving*.

Our November Program

Our guest speaker for November is Mr. George Mayer. Mr. Mayer will discuss the *SS American Victory*, a WWII supply ship and now floating museum in Tampa Bay.



The *SS American Victory* is a Victory ship that saw brief service in the Pacific Theater of Operations during the final months of World War II, the Korean War from 1951–1954, and the Vietnam War from 1966–1969. Built in June 1945, she carried ammunition and other cargo from Los Angeles to Southeast Asia, then ferried cargo, equipment, and troops back to the US.

Today, the ship is one of only four operational World War II merchant steamships in the US. The *SS American Victory* provides daily educational tours, serves as a training site for firefighters, law enforcement officers, and active and reserve military and working dogs, hosts special events, and benefits from memberships, donations, and corporate sponsorships.



Since the *SS American Victory* arrived in Tampa in September 1999, dedicated volunteers have invested over 1,000,000 hours to restore, maintain and operate the vessel. The *American Victory Ship and Museum* is a nonprofit 501c3 organization recognized in the National Register of Historic Places. The ship is located directly behind The Florida Aquarium in the Water Street District of Tampa.

Mr. Mayer served in the US Navy as a corpsman on the *USS Forrester* and at US Naval Air Station, Key West. He holds a Master's Degree from the University of South Florida in American History and taught for 47 years at Gulf High school. He is married with two children and three grandchildren.

2022 Chapter Officers

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2nd VP

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Maj James Haney, USMC (Ret).....(813) 220-8758
jhhaney1@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 159 Chapter Members
- 93 Regular LIFE members
- 26 Regular ANNUAL members
- 35 Regular BASIC members
- 27 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ No new members this month

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ Doris Mansfield, Life Member, Surviving Spouse, Special Member, lived in Freedom Plaza
- ❖ 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 - 2 November LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 30 October 2022

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:

- Turkey with Dressing Cranberries
- Sugar Glazed Ham
- Stuffed Shells with Marinara

Mashed Potatoes with Gravy & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Our Annual Meeting will occur on 2 November 2022. Our Bylaws (Article VII, Section 2) state, “There shall be an annual meeting of the Chapter during November for the receipt of annual reports, the determination of annual dues for the next calendar year, the election of officers and directors, and the transaction of other business. Notice of the annual meeting shall be published no later than the Chapter’s October newsletter.”

Article XII, Section 1 further states, “These bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a two-thirds vote of those members present at any duly constituted meeting of the Chapter. A copy of any amendment proposed for consideration must be published in the Chapter’s newsletter prior to the meeting.”

A Bylaws Committee has been hard at work since last Spring to update the Chapter bylaws, they were posted in the October newsletter, and a motion will be made at this annual meeting to adopt the new bylaws. Most of the changes were to provide updated and more understandable language, remove duplicate or conflicting items, and correct inappropriate punctuation.

In addition to the copy of the proposed bylaws in last month’s newsletter, you can access the draft bylaws [here](#).

The following slate of candidates for election as officers and directors will also be up for election at the Annual Meeting: OFFICERS (6)

- 1 - President: Col. Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)
- 2 - 1st Vice President: CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)
- 3 - 2nd Vice President: Lt. Col. Walt Cawein, USAF (Ret)
- 4 - Secretary: Ms. Harriett Jordan, Surviving Spouse
- 5 - Treasurer: Lt. Col. Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret)
- 6 - Immediate Past President: LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret)

BOARD MEMBERS/DIRECTORS (5)

- 1 – Lt. Col. Joseph Muhlberger, USAF (Ret)
- 2 - Lt. Col. Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret)
- 3 - CDR Cliff Korn, USN (Ret)
- 4 - CW3 Bob Pitcher, USA (Ret)
- 5 - Ms. Jean Stratis, Surviving Spouse



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Sun City Center Veterans Day Ceremony

On Friday, November 11th, as a public tribute to all military veterans, Sun City Center will observe Veterans Day at the SCC Community Association's Community Hall located at [1910 South Pebble Beach Boulevard](#). The combined Sun City Center military veterans organizations are sponsoring the ceremony to recognize our many community veterans; however, American Legion Post 246 is taking the lead in organizing the event.

The program will start at 10:00 a.m., and it is suggested that all guests be seated by 9:45 a.m. Doors will be opened at 9:00 a.m., and coffee and cookies will be provided. Wearing masks is optional. The event is free, and the public is invited.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Bob Black, United States Army Korean War Veteran. Bob is a dynamic speaker awarded the Combat Infantry Badge as a member of the Second Infantry Division in the Korean "War."

The Grand Marshal will be Mr. Ken Barringer, a World War II veteran who saw duty in the Pacific Theater.

In addition to our guest speaker, the program will include a traditional musical interlude by the Trinity Singers, directed by Rev. Bob Walker, including those military tributes usually rendered to honor our present and deceased veterans.

Immediately following the ceremony, a wreath emplacement will occur at the Veterans Memorial located at the hall's front entrance.

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.



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



**YOUR 2023
MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE
NOW PAYABLE**

CHAPTER 2023 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 | \$ _____ |

Note: Chapter recognition for all members who pay their dues before 1 January 2023.

Member Spotlight

MOAA SCC FL42 member Bob Putnam recruited new member and chapter Legislative liaison Joe Muhlberger. They met at weekly Thursday 7am breakfasts at the Ruskin Bob Evans Restaurant event called "Bob's Vets" where all Veterans are welcomed as participants.



Here's a bit about Bob from his time as a Lieutenant in our US Army during the Vietnam War.

I did my Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training (AIT) at Ft Dix, NJ and then from there I did six months of training at Officer Candidate School (OCS) at the "Home of the Infantry," Ft Benning, GA. Upon being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (2LT) I was at Ft Knox with the 54th Infantry which is a mechanized unit. I did Jungle Training in Panama and from there onto Vietnam. Upon arrival in Vietnam, I was assigned to Company C of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, better known as the "Wolfhounds" which are assigned under the 25th Infantry Division, nicknamed "Tropic Lightning."

My tour of duty included serving as a platoon leader for nine months and then as a liaison officer working with the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) and Australian forces. My time as a platoon leader included working with the "Brown Water" Navy along the Vietnam/Cambodia border. Our unit also took part in the Cambodian invasion. After this I finished my tour and went back to the States where I rejoined my wife and son.

Volunteer Opportunity

From Jim Taylor – The Sun City Chapter of DAV needs volunteer drivers and dispatchers for their van that takes veterans to the James Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa. To help with this essential service one needs only a valid driver's license, to be healthy, and complete a volunteer orientation. A Commercial License is not required. Jim says that volunteers do not have to be veterans and both men and women are more than welcome! For more information please call (813) 331-3871.

Sun City Center MOAA Website

Don't forget to visit our 5-star website.
www.sccmoaa.org

You will find much membership information, photos, calendar of events, past newsletters and more. If you would like to suggest topics for inclusion contact the Webmaster:
rpitcher6666@gmail.com

Legislative Liaison Corner November Update

Joseph Muhlberger

Legislative Update from Military Officers Association of America
(MOAA) Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Board
Meeting 10/10/2022

It's been a tough slog so far this year to move our legislators to support the Bills on MOAA's **"Key Advocacy Issues."**

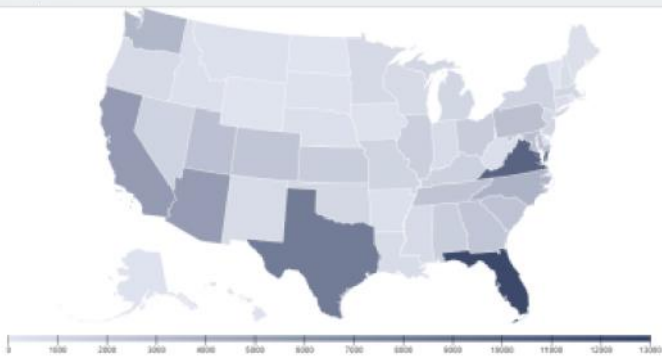
However, there has been some good news

On Wednesday, August 10, 2022 The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act ("The PACT Act") was signed into law. To learn more about The PACT Act, the Veterans Administration (VA) provides the following website. <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

- The House passed their version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- The Richard Star Act gained over 300 co-sponsors in the House. On February 22, 2021 this bill was introduced in the Senate. If passed into law, this bill would allow a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay, without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation.

On January 4, 2022 MOAA stood up their New Legislative Action Center. And here's something we should be proud of - from a trial run of the data collected by Quorum, MOAA's advocacy software.

Actions By State



Florida is the most engaged State using MOAA's messaging system with 12,016 contacts since February. While MOAA is still working on validating this type of data, the ranking against the color bar below the map definitely differentiates Florida from the rest of the herd.

Right now there are 33 active Legislative Campaigns posted to the Legislative Action Center on the MOAA website. There is plenty of advocacy work to be done - and more messages to be sent. To receive updates as they are released login to your MOAA account, go to MOAA.Quorum.us, and click the "Sign Up" label. Or, simply wait for our next newsletter overview provided by new Chapter Legislative Liaison Joe Muhlberger.

Meet The New Legislative Liaison



Joseph Muhlberger, Lt Col, USAF (Retired) spent 15 1/2 enlisted years and 20 1/2 officer years. Following September 11, 2001 Joe deployed five times. By retirement he held four commands, taught at the Air Force Academy, supported conventional and nuclear flying, space, and missile missions, and became a Joint Qualified Officer having a NATO tour and four SOF tours. Since retiring Joe balances time between family and Veterans interests including being a proud new MOAA member.

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

I have a special prayer this month, and it is that each of you please come to the November Luncheon. We will have visitors from MOAA National and the Florida Council of Chapters. There will be an open discussion after the luncheon at 1:00 pm with our visitors for anyone who wishes to stay after the luncheon to participate. We want a good turnout for the luncheon, so please make a reservation and come out to join us. And now a word from our Lord.

WISDOM! "Learning About God Through Experience"

(From Daily Devotions for Seniors by Christine A. Dallman)

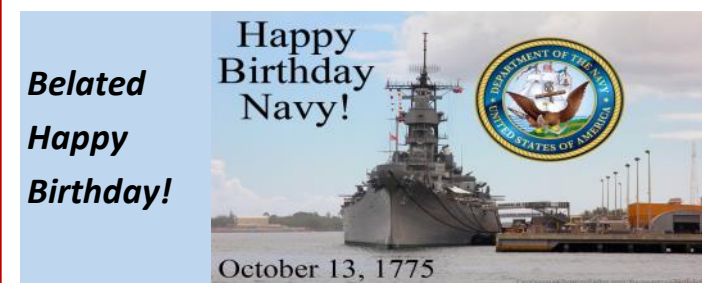
As our experiences fill the pages of our lives, our perspective on God often changes. Through life's ups and downs, we may come to an eventual trust that God has a good plan and purpose for us. Or we may come to believe that He is cruel and arbitrary while we struggle to come to terms with disappointment, loss, or tragedy. How we choose to interpret our experiences is a large part of the development of our faith.

Nevertheless, regardless of the way we interpret our experiences, one thing is certain: God's character does not change. As the story of our lives is written, God seeks to inscribe one supreme truth on our hearts: His unfailing love for us. God literally longs to be in close relationship with us and to care for us as only He can.

Although we live in a world that contains evil and pain, God will guide us through this world and will never leave us alone in it. Experiencing His presence in this way will change our lives forever.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: happy are those who take refuge in Him."

Psalm 34:8



Surviving Spouse Corner

Jean Bennet Stratis

Our members were challenged to complete the Paper Safe packet at our October luncheon. Doing so is one of the greatest gifts you can give your family. Everyone was given a copy to complete by the next luncheon, November 2nd. For those who complete the Paper Safe packet or update one already completed, you will get a chance to win a prize at the luncheon!! What is the Paper safe? It is a packet with forms and questions for you to fill out with all of your estate information. Why is this important? It will assist your loved ones should something happen to you, and they will have all your most important information in one place. The Paper Safe is divided into four sections: Estate Administration Information, Funeral Arrangements, Assets, and gathering important documents. Spend 20 minutes a day until the luncheon, and you will have plenty of time to complete it. This is an important challenge and one your family will appreciate. [The Paper Safe](#)


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, UNITED STATES NAVY!

247 YEARS STRONG – 13 October

MOAA would like to wish a happy 247th birthday to the U.S. Navy. We are honored to have more than 64,000 currently serving, retired and former naval officers as members.

MOAA continues to advocate on behalf of our members and all of those serving in the Navy and uniformed services. In 2022, this included lobbying for the passage of the PACT Act for those servicemembers impacted by burn pits and other toxic substances. MOAA also successfully pushed for DoD to create an appeal process for Tier 4/non-covered prescription drugs and increased respite care hours for medically complex family members enrolled in TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option (ECHO).

We support annual pay increases for servicemembers to keep up with the increases in the cost of living as well as the DoD's Military Spouse Fellowship pilot program, which will provide additional employment and career growth opportunities for the families of many of our members.



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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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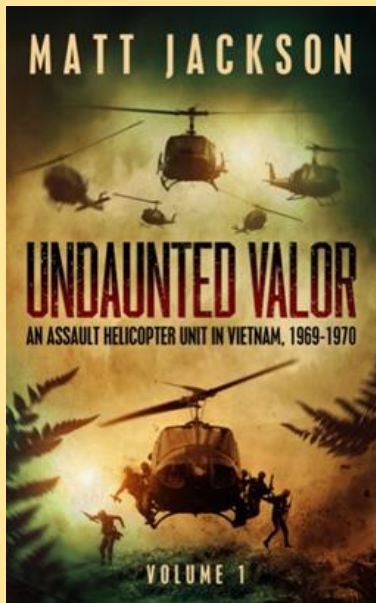
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Member Spotlight

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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VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

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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**

**If you are a Veteran or know
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share their stories, schedule
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SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER

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Website: sccmoaa.org

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.



And, for only \$4 a month, 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 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.



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

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Here.

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Mike Beltran

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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 House District 59

Andrew Learned

Offices and Addresses

Local - 805 E. Bloomingdale Ave #390
Brandon, FL 33511
State - 1201 The Capital
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee 32399-1300

Tel.

Local - 813-856-1212
State - 850-717-5059

Legislative Assistant - Brian Ontario

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



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