



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 10

October 2022

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family. Our September meeting felt like the first day of school, and I'm happy that so many came out to be a part of the experience. It was a great meeting, a delicious meal was served, and the speaker, our very own distinguished author Gary Bridges, AKA Matt Jackson, was fabulous.

We have very exciting news for the chapter. Once again, we were awarded the MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence award, which is awarded to the very best chapters and councils. It is awarded to chapters that maintain recruiting and retention goals, implement Surviving Spouse programs, support veteran organizations, maintain an active social media account and web page, and promote legislative information, to name a few. Congratulations to the chapter, the board members, volunteers, and all the members of this amazing chapter. I appreciate you!

The updated by-laws were sent out along with this newsletter. Please review them; we'll adopt them at the Nov annual meeting. We appreciate the members that corrected their contact information in the chapter directory. As soon as the corrections are made on the master list, we'll send it out via email.

Our special speaker for the Oct meeting will be David Dunning, Executive Director of the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital. We look forward to getting answers to our questions about new policies, appointment availability and timing, and overall veteran care. Invite someone to this extremely informational meeting.

Call a member who hasn't attended a meeting in a while or bring a guest. How can they pass up a delicious meal, exceptional speaker, and great friends? I look forward to seeing you on the 5th. Till then, stay safe, be blessed, and never stop serving.

Our October Program

COL David K. Dunning, USA (Ret)—Director, James A Haley Veterans Hospital and Clinics, Tampa

COL David K. Dunning was appointed Medical Center Director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics in Tampa, Florida on Nov. 7, 2021. He joined JAHVH following a four-year federal appointment as Executive Director at the Memphis VA Medical Center in Tennessee.

Prior to joining the VA, Dunning amassed over 30 years of U.S. Army healthcare experience, including two combat tours. Most recently, Dunning served as Commander at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. He is a multi-faceted healthcare executive with proven, demonstrated success in multiple organizational environments ranging from armed conflict to state-of-the-art healthcare facilities.



He specializes in employing strategic, transformational leadership and innovative thinking across organizations with varying levels of size and complexity.

Dunning earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Furman University, Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and Master of Public Administration in Comptrollership from the University of Missouri - Kansas. In 2013, he was recognized as the Army Level Comptroller of the Year by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Dunning's military decorations include 4 Legions of Merit, 2 Bronze Stars, and the Order of Military Medical Merit.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
US AIR FORCE!

18 September 1947



2022 Chapter Officers

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niche.patxot@gmail.com

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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:

- 160 Chapter Members
- 94 Regular LIFE members
- 26 Regular ANNUAL members
- 35 Regular BASIC members
- 28 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ Joseph Muhlberger, Lt COL USAF (Ret)

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ No departed members this month

❖ 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 - 5 October LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 2 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:

- Bratwurst with Sauerkraut Gulden's Mustard
- Chicken Schnitzel Lemon Wedges
- Butter Crumb Cod Tartar Sauce

German Potato Salad & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: **Chef's selected desserts**

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please mark your calendars now! 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, and a motion will be made at the 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 attached to the cover letter of this newsletter, you can access the draft bylaws [here](#).

A slate of candidates for election as officers and directors will be published in the November newsletter.

Surviving Spouse Corner

Jean Bennet Stratis

Happy Fall to our Sun City members! Even though summer was a nice break, it feels so good to be back in full swing with our luncheons and events.

The following is information regarding MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. By signing up, you will receive an invitation each month to join the online meeting. There is no cost and it is not mandatory to attend. Join the meeting when you can and participate in the conversation or just listen in.

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meets monthly through a teleconference. There are no dues, and this chapter is intended to be an enhancement to, not take the place of, our local chapter. Several weeks in advance of each meeting, an email is sent to members alerting them to the date and time of the gathering; a follow-on email with instructions for joining the free telephone conference is sent several days prior to each meeting. The call is kept to about one hour, and topics for discussion have included SBP-DIC updates, financial discussions, and information from MOAA national as well as other items of interest.

We recognize everyone has busy lives; therefore, members participate to the extent they are able. While the chapter is geared toward surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons, any MOAA spouse is welcome for membership. MOAA's mantra "Never Stop Serving" is espoused to make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally.

For additional information or to join MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter visit the MOAA website or use this [online application](#).

Jeannie

LTC Benny Blackshire Receives Award



COL Michael Borders, USA (Ret), presented LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret), the **MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Outstanding Leadership Award** for the period 2020 to 2022 while Benny served as the West Central

Area Vice President. Col. Borders was the Council President during the award period and presented a beautiful handmade wooden plaque which read "Our Deepest Appreciation" for Outstanding Leadership. LTC Blackshire continues to serve as the MOAA FCoC West Central Area VP with five local MOAA chapters in his area of operation.

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.

AIR FORCE CELEBRATES 75th BIRTHDAY – EARLY HISTORY



The official United States Air Force birthday was 18 September 1947. This event was over 40 years in the making, starting with the Wright (Brothers) Flyer being the first successful heavier-than-air powered aircraft. That flight was on December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. It was piloted by Orville Wright and lasted 12 seconds for a distance of 120 feet – about half the wingspan of a Boeing 747. The flight of the Wright Flyer marked the beginning of the “pioneer era” of aviation. This caught the attention of the US Army. In August 1907, the **Army Signal Corps** established an **Aeronautical Division**, which later, became the **Aviation Section**. After the United States entered World War I in 1917, the first major U.S. aviation combat force was created when an **Air Service** was formed (1918) as part of the **American Expeditionary Force (AEF)**. These aviation units provided tactical support for the U.S. Army. The Air Service Deputy Commander was Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell. In 1926, the Air Service was renamed the **Army Air Corps**. General Mitchell began to campaign for an independent Air Force, co-equal with the Army and the Navy. But his campaign offended many and resulted in a court martial in 1925, which led to his retirement. Of his followers, two future leaders, Henry “Hap” Arnold and Carl Spaatz would carry on the fight for independence when the time was right in the future.

In a special message to Congress in January 1939, President Roosevelt advised that with the threat of a new war, he requested approval of a “minimum 3,000-plane increase” for the Air Corps. On 20 June 1941, the **U.S. Army Air Forces** was created as successor to the Army Air Corps, and in March 1942, “Hap” Arnold became the Commanding General, USAAF. Major General Carl A. Spaatz took command of the Eighth Air Force in London. The B-17 Flying Fortress and B-24 Liberator heavy bombers flew missions into Germany to attack aircraft and related industries. The P-38 Lightning, P-47 Thunderbolt, and P-51 Mustang were the main fighters in air-to-air combat and ground attack both in the European and the Pacific Theaters of Operation. The B-24 and B-25 medium bombers also operated in both theaters. In the Pacific, the AAF created the Twentieth Air Force to employ the long-range B-29 Superfortress bombers in strategic attacks on Japanese cities. General Arnold appointed General Curtiss LeMay to command these operations. In early August 1945, the Twentieth Air Force conducted atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 15, Emperor Hirohito announced the surrender of Japan.

In practice, the Army Air Forces became virtually independent of the Army during World War II, but its leaders wanted formal independence. In November 1945, General Dwight D. Eisenhower became Army Chief of Staff and General Carl Spaatz began to assume the duties of Commanding General, Army Air Forces, as General Arnold retired. General Eisenhower appointed a board of officers to prepare a definitive plan for reorganization of the Army and the separation of the Air Force from the Army. On 20 January 1946 Generals Eisenhower and Spaatz agreed on an Air Force organization composed of the following Commands: Strategic Air, Air Defense, Tactical Air, Air Transport, Air Technical Service, Air Training; and the Air University. Among other provisions, the **National Security Act of 1947** created the **Department of the Air Force** and the **United States Air Force** as an independent service, effective 18 September 1947. **The official birthday of the US Air Force is 18 September 1947.**

Member Spotlight

SCC Chapter member CDR William “Bill” Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret.), was recently awarded the **Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award** by the FAA. The “Master Pilot” Award is the most prestigious award the FAA issues to pilots certified under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award—is named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright who were two American aviation pioneers credited with The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award was instituted by the United States Federal Aviation Administration on October 11, 2003.

The award recognizes pilots who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise over 50 or more consecutive years of safe flight operations. Fewer than 7,500 pilots have had this honor granted since its’ inception.

After a 21 year Navy Career flying F-14 Tomcats and the F/A-18 Hornet (and being selected for the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) along the way. He Then had a 22 year career with United Airlines. Bill has been flying for over 50 years and has accrued more than 22,000 flight hours.

Mike Windom, Wright Brothers Master Pilot and Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team Representative presented the award at the Sun City Center Community Center on June 15, 2022.

An Unattributed quote and Bill’s favorite “To many people, the sky is the limit. To aviators, the sky is home.”



FAA Rep Mike Windom, Lynne Hartley, Bill Kirkpatrick, Sue Kirkpatrick

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

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

The Bible describes angels as "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation." Sometimes angels appear in human form when God sends them for a specific purpose. This story is about two angels who appeared in human form and were sent by God.

*Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. **The family was rude** and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. **Instead, the angels were given a space in the cold basement.** As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw **a hole in the wall** and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied... **"Things aren't always what they seem."***

*The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor but **very hospitable farmer and his wife.** After sharing what little food they had, **the couple let the angels sleep in their bed** where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning, **the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears.** Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, **lay dead in the field.***

*The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel, "how could you have let this happen? **The first man had everything, yet you helped him,**" she accused. **"The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let their cow die."** **"Things aren't always what they seem,"** the older angel replied.*

*"When we stayed in the mansion's basement, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, **I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it.**" Then last night, as we slept in the farmer's bed, **the angel of death came for his wife. I gave her the cow instead.** **"Things aren't always what they seem."***

Sometimes this is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way we think they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not know it until some time later. But trust in the Lord, for He always knows what is best for you, and His timing is always perfect.



The poster for the Traveling Tribute Wall event features a patriotic design with stars and stripes. At the top left is the logo for the Chapters Health Foundation's Valor Program. The main title "TRAVELING TRIBUTE WALL" is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, a banner indicates the dates "OCTOBER 13 - 16, 2022". To the right, a starburst graphic says "Family friendly event!" and another says "Open to the public". The event is presented by Buchanan, with the address "JULIAN B. LANE RIVERFRONT PARK 1001 N BLVD TAMPA, FL". A central message reads "Join us for this FREE 4-day patriotic Celebration of Service!". Below this, it states "View an 80% scale replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. Plus individual tribute walls for every U.S. involved conflict since WWI, including a special 9/11 memorial." Three bullet points highlight "School field trips and other large groups welcome!", "Sponsorship opportunities available", and "We're seeking volunteers - please join us!". A QR code and the Chapters Health Foundation logo are also present. At the bottom, a photo shows people at a tribute wall, and the website "WWW.CHAPTERSTRAVELINGTRIBUTEWALL.COM" is listed.

Our September Guest Speaker


COL Gary Bridges, USA (Ret)

Sun City Center Chapter President COL Eunice Patxot, USA



(Ret) thanks Chapter Member COL Gary Bridges, USA (Ret) for his presentation at the September 2022 Luncheon. COL Bridges' presentation was based upon a book entitled *Lan Son 719*, by noted military author Matt Jackson. This was the third book within his three-book series *Undaunted Valor*. *Lan Son 719* was the largest

battle that Army Aviation has ever fought in and changed Army Aviation into what it is today. After many years, COL Bridges remains a close friend of Matt Jackson.



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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

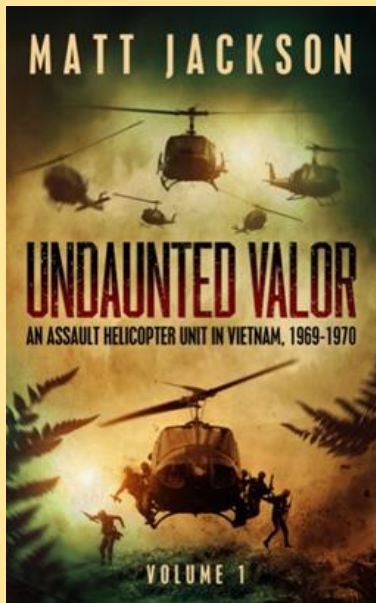
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Member Spotlight

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

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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.
By Appointment Only**

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SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER

Post Office Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693
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

Place Stamp
Here.

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Mike Beltran

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State - 303 House Office Bldg.
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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

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State – 1201 The Capital
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Tel.

Local – 813856-1212
State – 850-7175059

Legislative Assistant – Brian Ontario

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



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