



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 10

October 2023

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family!

The summer break was great but it was wonderful to be back to our monthly meetings. We had a nice turnout, a great speaker with relevant and interesting information, and as always, a delicious catered meal. Join us on the 4th of Oct for another amazing meeting.

We are approaching the end of the year. At the October meeting, we'll introduce you to the members who have volunteered to serve on the board for the next year and the members who will serve in non-board positions. It cannot be stressed enough that every member is important. Every member is needed. Every member is a volunteer. The chapter needs you!

While we enjoy our monthly meetings, let's remember the mission of our organization. To support Veterans, their families, military servicemembers, and all who have served. We are advocates for the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC). Due to the move of My Warrior's Place to Punta Gorda, the board is looking at other organizations to include in our advocacy effort. Recommendations are appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you on Wed, October 4th. Call someone, invite them, or bring them to the meeting. A recent change: **We will be starting our Business Meeting at 1100.** The doors are open at 1030, though, so feel free to come early for social time enjoyment. Till then, stay safe, be blessed, and *Never Stop Serving.*

October 2023 Program

Lt Col Tom Barrett, USAF (Ret)

SCC MOAA Chapter member Tom Barrett will give a presentation on "High Altitude Reconnaissance during the Cold War", at our next Chapter meeting on October 4, 2023. During three of the twenty-two years he served in the United States Air Force, he was a high-altitude recon-



naissance pilot who participated in some of the USAF's most secretive photographic and nuclear sampling reconnaissance flights.

Few aviation enthusiasts know about the aircraft he flew. Built in 1964 to replace

U-2A and B models, this General Dynamics 122' wingspan RB-57F aircraft was designed to carry a pilot, systems operator, and the world's largest camera. It was the size of a VW, weighed almost 6,000 pounds and could produce detailed photographs of objects fifty miles away. Twenty-one of the planes were built by General Dynamics. To minimize public speculation and to maintain secrecy, the aircraft were never painted black and were given the same designation as an existing aircraft - the sixty-five-foot wingspan Martin B-57. Especially interesting are the missions flown taking samples of nuclear detonation "mushroom clouds" throughout the world. Please note that if the lights are turned down, Tom may glow in the dark.

Tom was the Experimental Aircraft Associations (EAA) museum / flight operations director from 1995 – 2000. His earlier appointment was six years as Associate Professor and Director of the Business Management Program at Ripon College.

Tom and his wife Lynn (glider pilot /sailor /USAF RN) live in Ruskin.



2022/2023 Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret).....(301) 529-4301
niche.patxot@gmail.com

1st VP

CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret).....(805) 506-3269
ualav8tor@yahoo.com

Program Chair

2nd VP

Lt Col Walter Cawein, USAF (Ret).....(813) 340-0533
waltcawein@gmail.com

Membership Chair

TREASURER

Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret).....(603) 305-1062
bill@wwpat.us

SECRETARY

Ms. Harriet Jordan,(813) 773-7676
hmj1215@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

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DIRECTOR

CW3 Bob Pitcher, USA (Ret).....(813) 857-8196
rpitcher6666@gmail.com

Webmaster

DIRECTOR

CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret).....(813) 532-0913
cliff@kornhouse.net

Newsletter Editor

DIRECTOR

Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret).....(813) 841-0532
garrett4@tampabay.rr.com

DIRECTOR

Jean Bennett Stratis.....(813) 758-7330
jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Liaison

DIRECTOR

Lt Col Joseph Muhlberger, USAF (Ret)..(701) 509-3883
joseph.muhlberger@gmail.com

Legislative Affairs

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 157 Chapter Members
- 92 Regular LIFE members
- 24 Regular ANNUAL members
- 35 Regular BASIC members
- 26 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ Oppelaar, Samuel, Jr, Lt Col., USAF (Alicia)

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ Batten, David, Captain, Terminated
- ❖ Graham, Julian, LTC, USA, Moved
- ❖ McDonough, Edward, Captain, USN, Moved
- ❖ Robben, Bertran, Captain, Terminated

❖ 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 - 4 October LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 1 October 2023

Florida Room, Atrium Building

945 North Course Lane , Sun City Center, FL 33573

Please give the full names of members and guests, and the total number attending. The 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:

- Roast Pork with Sauerkraut
 - Bratwurst
 - Butter Crumb Baked Cod Tartar Sauce
- Starch & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: **Chef's selected desserts**

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

WELCOME BACK was the theme for the first meeting/luncheon after our summer break. It was great to see 60 of our members and spouses in attendance for the meeting and buffet luncheon. Thanks to Michele Halcomb and Tom & Laura Smith for volunteering to sit at the reception table to check people in. Also, thanks to Betsy Korn for continuing to take care of the merchandise table. She has MOAA shirts in all sizes for men and ladies plus other items for sale.

Here is an article titled "*Life Principles From Our Loving Pets*" from DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR SENIORS, by Christine A. Dallman.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you." (Job 12:7)

Animals, as we observe their ways, sometimes have a lesson or two to pass along to the human race. By their wordless example, they convey to us useful tidbits of wisdom about life and love.

Here are some insights about our pets from which we can learn: Always greet those you love with affection and exuberance; if someone gets after you blowing it, do your best to apologize, make up, and move on; when there's danger, sound an alert; be friendly, loyal, courageous, transparent, and forgiving; be easygoing while playing with children; if you're happy, wear a smile; find a warm spot in the sunshine and soak in it; pursue your goals with intensity; enjoy the great outdoors as much as possible; if you want attention, ask for it in a straightforward manner; when someone offers you a treat, don't be too proud to come running to get it; establish good relationships with your neighbors; and take each new day as it comes.

Many of us can relate experiences when our pet has sensed our mood during moments of sadness and has come to comfort us. Some of us can relate inspiring stories of our pet's loyalty and courage. Nearly all pet owners can relate to the unconditional affection their pet has demonstrated toward them. Of course, pets don't always behave as we want them to. They have their quirks, mishaps, and stubborn streaks. In their better moments, however, they remind us of some of life's important principles and simple pleasures.

Prayer: God, thank you for the ways our pets have enhanced our love and enjoyment of life.

I hope to see everyone at the October 4 meeting/luncheon.

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

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



Find us on
Facebook

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>

October Member Spotlight

A huge MOAA congratulations to our esteemed Treasurer, Bill Patterson, and his new bride, Carol on their recent nuptials! We wish the happy couple all the best!



Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Happy Fall! It was wonderful seeing all your familiar faces at last month's luncheon. There are a lot of great speakers coming up in the next few months and an election of your new MOAA board. Make sure you put the luncheons on your calendar and join us each month!

Have you heard of MOAA's Storming the Hill? Every year, members of MOAA across the country organize and plan a trip to Washington, DC, and meet with lawmakers to promote change. This year, it will take place in the last week of September. They will discuss MOAA's top issues affecting our members, veterans, military, and surviving spouses. A group of surviving spouses is joining the force this year to speak with lawmakers regarding these actions:

- Repeal the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing.
- Continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation.
- Improve DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

Other issues that will be discussed are: overcome lack of Tricare coverage for the reserve components, monitor recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families, improve congressional support for uniformed services families, and compel Congress and the VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services to improve veterans access to high quality care, to name just a few of the issues.

How can you help? Log on to the MOAA national website and go to the Legislative Action Center and with a couple of clicks of a button you can send letters to our senators asking for their support. Email moaasccsurvivors@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Jeannie Stratis
Surviving Spouse Liaison



Jeannie Stratis, our surviving spouse liaison, participated in this year's Travis Manion Foundation's 9/11 Heroes Run in Tampa. The 9/11 Heroes Run 5K series was inspired by Marine 1st Lt Travis Manion, who was killed by an enemy sniper in Iraq in April 2007 as he

selflessly pulled his wounded teammates to safety. Before his final deployment, Travis visited New York City Fire Department Rescue Company 1—a group known for losing almost all their members on 9/11—and gained an even deeper devotion to defending the country's freedom ahead of his return to Iraq. The 9/11 Heroes Run serves as a reminder for the nation to never



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- 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
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Available on Amazon and Kindle. https://www.amazon.com/Battle-Quang-Tri-Easter-Offensive-ebook/dp/B0B9HLYGFM/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3CUC5Q8P9SL91&keywords=battle+of+quang+tri+matt+jackson&qid=1671114378&prefix=%2Caps%2C94&sr=8-1

Member Spotlight

Are you involved in a community event, activity, or service? Send us a picture and a description of 'you' in action and we will highlight you in the chapter newsletter!

Newsletter Editor: Cliff Korn

cliff@kornhouse.net

2023 Memorial Day Sponsor




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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.

Revised 2/15/2023

(Your Signature)



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

Florida House District 70

Mike Beltran

Offices and Addresses:

Local - 3618 Erindale Drive
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 Senate District 20

Jim Boyd

Offices and Addresses:

Local - 717 Manatee Ave.
Suite 100
Bradenton 34205

State - 312 Senate Bldg.
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee 32399-1100

Tel. Local - (813) 779-7059
State - (850) 487-5020

Legislative Assistant:

Amanda Romant
romant.amanda@flsenate.gov

Florida Congressional District 16

Vern Buchanan

Offices and Addresses:

Local - 510 Vonderburg Drive
Suite 303
Brandon, FL 33511

DC - 2110 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Tel. Local - 813-657-1013
DC - 202-226-5015
Fax - 202-226-0828

Hillsborough County Field Representative/Constituent
Service - MarDee Buchman

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Offices and Addresses:

Local - 501 E. Polk Street
Suite 601
Tampa, FL 33602

DC - 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Tel. Local - 813-947-6288
DC - 202-224-2573
Fax - 202-224-3041

Legislative assistant:

Taylor Sanchez

Rick Scott

Offices and Addresses:

Local - 801 N. Florida Ave
Suite 421
Tampa, FL 33602

DC - 716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Tel. Local - 813-225-7040
DC - 202-224-5274

Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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



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