



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 4

April 2022

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family!

If you joined us at our March meeting, you know it was full of great information and presentations. Our 2nd VP gave a small presentation on Iwo Jima and invited several people who have the battle close to their hearts. We also had an informative and entertaining presentation by Attorney Patrick Smith. For those who don't have their estate planning up to date, hopefully the presentation provided some motivation. If you missed the March meeting, I invite you to join us at the April meeting. Our guest speaker will provide a JROTC presentation and our own BG Colin Howgill will give us a brief presentation on the Military Family Support Trust.

You should have received an email with the State MOAA Convention video. Make plans to attend; it will be a great mini vacation.

The leads for the Memorial Day event are Benny Blackshire, Paul Wheat, and Charlie Collins. Feel free to contact them if you'd like to volunteer.

Our next meeting will be on April 6th. Invite a guest or give a member, who otherwise would not come to the meeting, a ride. Let's enjoy each other's company and enjoy a delicious meal.

Thank you for being a part of our Chapter family.

Until next time, be safe, be blessed, and *Never Stop Serving.*

APRIL PROGRAM NEWS

LTC Donald Gunn, USA (Ret)

Donald Gunn is in his tenth year as an instructor for the Army Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program. Colonel Gunn was raised in Valrico, Florida two miles from where his parents were born and across the street from his grandfather's orange grove. He is currently the Senior Army Instructor at Brandon High School where he was the cadet battalion commander 36 years ago.

Attending the University of Tampa on a 4-year Army ROTC scholarship, Colonel Gunn graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1990 with a commission as a second lieutenant in the Regular Army. Upon entering active duty he immediately deployed to Operation Desert Storm with the 101st Airborne Division. During his 20 plus years of active service he deployed in 2004 for an additional combat tour to Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was the support operations officer for a 1,500 soldier battalion. Other assignments included the Republic of Panama; Gainesville, Florida; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Lee, Virginia and Fort McPherson, Georgia. His awards include the Bronze Star for meritorious service in combat, four awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, three awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Assault Badge and various other awards and decorations.

Colonel Gunn holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University of Tampa, Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Florida and a Master of History from Norwich University. He is a past president of the South Shore Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, president of the Brandon High School Alumni Association, coordinator for the Retired JROTC Instructor's Group and member of the Military Order of World Wars, Seminole Wars Foundation, Brandon Community Association, East Hillsborough and Army Historical Associations.



2022 Chapter Officers

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Maj James Haney, USMC (Ret).....220-8758
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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 168 Chapter Members
- 78 Regular LIFE members
- 24 Regular ANNUAL members
- 31 Regular BASIC members
- 30 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ Julie Floyd, Surviving Spouse (Lt. David Floyd)
- ❖ Daniel Matz, CDR USN (Ret) Carol
- ❖ Edward McDonough, Captain USN (Ret)

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ Col. Dale Shatzer, USMC, (Ret) Resigned

❖ 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.*

\$17.00 - 6 April LUNCHEON - \$17.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Florida Room, Atrium Building

945 North Course Lane , Sun City Center, FL 33573

Reservations no later than 6 p.m.

Sunday, 3 April 2022

Please give full names of members and guests, total number attending. Cost is \$17.00/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:

- Sugar Glazed Ham
- Chicken Marsala
- Crab Stuffed Filet of Sole

Au Gratin Potatoes & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

Surviving Spouse Liaison April Update

Jeannie Stratis

Happy Spring! We are continuing to grow our Surviving Spouse committee! The surviving spouses in our Chapter have had two gatherings to meet one another and share some ideas. If you know of a surviving spouse in our Chapter who is not attending the meetings, or is not yet a member and eligible to become one, reach out to him/her or pass along their information to me so I can call and invite them to one of our meetings and our monthly luncheons.

The Surviving Spouse Committee has invited Jerri Stubbe, a military spouse and world-renowned quilter, as the guest speaker at our June luncheon! She has quite the stories to tell of her travels and how quilting has impacted her life and brought joy to so many in the military community. More information to come regarding Jerri's story.

If you are a surviving spouse and are not receiving my emails or invitations in the mail, please email me at jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com, or call 813-758-7330.



February Surviving Spouse Meeting

Julie Floyd, Jane Foppe, Jeannie Stratis, D. Kay Benson, Vivian Hodgkin, and Harriett Jordan

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Benny Blackshire

For this month's column I want to briefly address the tragedy that is happening with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As we all watch the horror of war that is ripping that nation apart, we see the terrible impact it is having on the Ukrainian civilians. Pictures of the children with their mothers, grandparents, and others trying to escape the destruction of their homes, cities, and countryside. The separation of fathers going to war while their families try to evacuate. The world is watching this unfold as numerous efforts are being made to support the Ukrainians. Humanitarian efforts from around the world are very heartwarming to see. I believe we need to keep the Ukraine nation in our prayers and hope that they will survive. I offer the following prayer.

Heavenly Father, help us to comprehend the unexplainable "why" for this war. We humbly pray for the Ukrainian families who have escaped or are trying to escape the horrors of this war. Strengthen them in their vigil and keep their courage and faith in You that You will never fail them. We ask for Your comfort and strength for all the families who have lost their loved ones. We ask that You guide, guard, and bless all the people for they are Your people. We ask this in Your Holy Name, Amen.

In Loving Memory



Eugene Ternes (Major, US Air Force)

Born on February 11, 1929 in Dubuque, IA.
Passed away on Friday, February 18, 2022 at Hospice House.

Mr. & Mrs. Ternes moved to Freedom Plaza in 2016.

Mr. Ternes is survived by his wife, Ardith. He is also survived by his three sons, Mark Ternes of Knoxville, TN, Paul Ternes of Canton, GA and David Ternes of Largo, FL ; daughter, Patricia Maue of Ballwin, MO; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Eugene will be laid to rest at Sarasota National Cemetery.
Additional information will be posted as it becomes available.

SAVE THE DATE

June 9-12
2022

FUN in the SUN



45th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters

West Palm Beach Marriott



MOAA Florida Conference Registration is now open!

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Annual Convention is set for June 9th - 12th at the West Palm Beach Marriott. MOAA Members from around Florida will have representatives at the Convention and all MOAA Chapter Members and Guests are invited. The fun will include a Mystery Dinner Theater Dinner and a Casino Night Fundraiser for the MOAA Foundation, along with optional trips, outings, and adventures! Join us for a great time with old friends or to meet new friends!

For more information and to register, go to the Florida Council Website at:
MOAAFL.org.

MOAA LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

RESERVATIONS, RESERVATIONS, RESERVATIONS.

[What is all the fuss about making a reservation?](#)

MOAA members are requested to make a reservation for the monthly luncheon by noon on the Sunday prior to the luncheon. The reservation number is **813-924-1983**. Caller ID has your phone number, but you need to leave your name (clearly) and number of reservations required. If there are any questions, you will receive a call back.

There is a permanent reservations list for regular attendees. They only need to call if they cannot make the luncheon. If you would like to be added to the permanent list, notify Benny Blackshire to be added to this list.

If you make a reservation and do not show up, and do not cancel before the luncheon, you are expected to pay for the meal. Special cases may be excused.

Each month on the Monday before the Wednesday Luncheon, a call or an email is made at 9:00 am to the Community Association to request the number of tables and chairs required for the MOAA Luncheon. Normally, one additional table is requested to

allow some separation for members. Also, a call or email is made at 9:00 am to the caterer to inform them the number of people to prepare for. This is the number the caterer will bill the chapter for the luncheon.

It is important that your reservation be received on time as there is a lot of planning that takes place to ensure a successful luncheon. This month Charlie and Susie Collins will be filling in for Bob & Marion Pitcher at the check-in table. Thank them for volunteering to help when needed. See you at the April Luncheon.

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: jghaney1@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER Walt Cawein

Life Membership and Chapter Dues

Walt Cawein

I have heard this comment, "I am a MOAA Life Member, and I don't have to pay dues." from members this year as I have been trying to collect Chapter dues from our Chapter members.

None of us like paying dues but being tasked to collect our Chapter's dues, I often think that I would rather have a root canal. Paying and collecting money is rarely a fun experience.

So, let's try to keep it real: our National dues, Life, or Annual are required to maintain MOAA National membership and receive access to many important member benefits and resources. The Life membership is a special category of membership. By becoming a MOAA life member, you affirm your ongoing support of MOAA's mission to serve our military community. As a Life member, you also have full benefits of active membership without ever renewing your National membership again. The MOAA National Life membership fee varies depending on your age.

"As a Life member, why do I have to pay Chapter dues?" That's a fair question. Our Chapter membership dues are separate from our National membership dues. Our Chapter annual dues, \$20.00 for Officers and \$15.00 for Surviving Spouses, go directly to our Chapter and cover Chapter costs, such as financial support for our Chapter's Advocacy Programs, and perhaps the most important reason is the cold, hard fact that dues keep our Chapter afloat.

As a note of interest, if we collect dues from our current members, we will receive an income of about \$3,000.00. While we do receive additional income from our 50 x 50 raffles each luncheon, from advertisements in our Newsletter and some small donations, that's not much money to manage a Chapter as large as our MOAA Chapter. Unfortunately, at this time, we have about 30 members who have not paid their 2022 dues.

So.....if you have not paid your Chapter dues, please pay them now.

You can mail your check to:

MOAA SCC Chapter
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571

Thank You.



My Warrior's Place is a retreat center for veterans, retired and active-duty service members, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters, Blue, silver, White, and Gold Star families. It offers a relaxed tropical setting nestled on the Little Manatee River in Ruskin, FL. It is one of

the five Advocacy Programs that your Chapter budgets an annual financial donation for, typically \$1,000.00. Your personal donations for My Warrior's Place are appreciated.



My Warrior's Place was founded by Kelly Kowall, whose son Corey, like so many others, gave his life for our continued freedom. My Warrior's Place, and all those involved with My Warrior's Place, understand that there are no words that can express how grateful we are to those who make the sacrifice by serving in the Armed Forces and how thankful we are to those who serve in Fire Fighting or in Law Enforcement. There are absolutely no words that can be said to comfort those families whose loved one(s) gave the ultimate sacrifice while protecting us and our country. We will never be able to thank you enough.

My Warrior's Place offers several amazing programs for those who have put their life on the line for our safety and well-being, endured the death of a Fallen Warrior, and/or experienced the horrors of war. Each program offered plays an important role in the healing and coping process, and the support obtained through these programs is priceless!



Current programs offered are the Everyday Heroes U.S.A., Boating Expeditions, Project Corregidor, and C.O.R.E Fitness. A new and recent program is called "My Service Dogs Place.

My Service Dog's Place is a vital program that provides a safe boarding facility and dog park for service dogs when circumstances arise, necessitating the temporary separation of the service dog owner from their service dog.

This year your Chapter will be donating \$1,000.00 to My Warrior's Place toward constructing a new dock and a boat lift.

Your contributions to our Chapter for My Warrior's Place are appreciated. Please find room in your heart to allow your Chapter to continue to support My Warrior's Place.

Save the Date and Mark Your Calendars Now!

Dr. Susan MacManus will be the keynote speaker for our May 4, 2022, local MOAA Membership meeting. She will discuss the upcoming elections, describing the essential issues from the perspective of both political parties, including Florida and National candidates. Dr. MacManus is an honorary member of MOAA's Sun City Center chapter and is considered one of our best annual speakers. Reservations for this meeting will be "first-come, first-served," and we hope to fill the Florida Room. Guests are welcome, so feel free to invite your friends. Our standard \$17.00 for the luncheon will be charged for all. Ensure your spot by calling our regular reservation line at 813-924-1983. Please state your name clearly and the number in your party and indicate that your reservation is for the May 2022 meeting.

Dr. MacManus is a widely recognized expert and commentator on many facets of state and local politics. She is quoted in numerous newspapers and is an informative and entertaining speaker. Her specialties and topics of expertise include campaigns and elections, redistricting, women & minorities in politics, election reform, media and politics, public opinion polls, government budgeting & finance, Florida politics—all levels, intergenerational issues, and public policies.

For the last 30+ years, this University of South Florida Distinguished University Professor (Political Science) Emerita has been a fixture in Florida politics. She's had a front-row seat to some of the most significant political events in the state's history – using that insight and knowledge to educate her students and people worldwide. For the better part of two decades, MacManus has been Florida's most-quoted political scientist, usually the first person called by national and local news operations for information and perspective on state politics. She retired just a few years ago from teaching after 45-plus years in the classroom, 30 of those at the University of South Florida in Tampa as a distinguished professor in the Department of Government and International Affairs. Though retired, she continues analyzing Florida's demographics and voting patterns.

MacManus' grandfather was a citrus grower and the

first permanent resident of Lutz, north of Tampa. She still lives in his nearly 100-year-old home. She became a media go-to for her data-based, nonpartisan analyses and insights on politics and because she gave generously of her time. During the George W. Bush-Al Gore election, when Florida's notorious "hanging chads" prompted a recount, MacManus told Fox 13 News she went 36 hours without sleep as news outlets worldwide struggled to understand the problems.



To whet your appetite for her presentation, see the following links:

[Florida's Changing Generational Composition: Some Insights Ahead of the 2022 Election](#)

Dr. Susan MacManus speaks on protests in DC

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCzYvvucsq4&ab_channel=ABCActionNews

Who's Who:

<https://whoswhoindustryleaders.com/2018/01/susan-macmanus/>

We hope to see you there!

Yellow Dot Program Update

Ferris Garrett

Hillsborough County's Yellow Dot program gives you a voice if you are seriously injured in a vehicle accident or experience a medical emergency while driving. You may be disoriented, in shock, or unconscious and cannot communicate when help arrives. A round Yellow Dot sticker on the driver's side of the rear window alerts rescue personnel that vital personal and medical information is on a form in the glove compartment. The Form identifies who you are, your current medications, medical history and any conditions that affect your ability to communicate. This information is confidential in nature and helps rescue personnel in determining your treatment. The information you provide can help save your life. The cities of Tampa, Plant City, and Temple Terrace emergency services also participate in the Hillsborough County Yellow Dot program.

The Yellow Dot sticker is placed on the driver's side of the rear window and the filled-out form, with your attached photo, is placed in the glove compartment. More information and instructions are available on-line at www.HCFLGov.net/YellowDot. Presently, Yellow Dot stickers and information cards are not available at Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Stations. To obtain Yellow Dot materials, you can send an email to: HCFRPublicRelations@HillsboroughCounty.org and Fire Rescue Headquarters will mail these materials to you. You can also call Ferris Garrett (813-841-0532) for information, and he has Yellow Dot Stickers & Information Cards available.

If you are interested in the program, please Email him at: garrett4@tampabay.rr.com with your name and mailing address and Yellow Dot materials will be mailed you. In the Email, please note if you have another vehicle and if there is a second driver or a frequent passenger in your vehicle(s), for example, a Spouse, other relative, or friend. Your yellow Dot materials will include a second Sticker and/or additional Information

Card(s) to be filled out by another driver or passenger, to be stored in the glove compartment with your Card. These same guidelines will also apply if you send your email request to Fire Rescue Headquarters.

Please discuss the Yellow Dot program with friends and neighbors. Home/Property Owner's Associations may have means of communications with association residents through email groups or, possibly, newsletters or membership meetings. Recommend contacting the Association Board and ask if this Yellow Dot information article could be forwarded to the residents, in the interest of public safety. This article has internet links to the Hillsborough County Yellow Dot Program and to the HC Fire Rescue Public Relations office. This article's author would also be pleased to provide further information and Yellow Dot materials for family, friends, or neighbors.



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With War Raging in Eastern Europe, Will Congress Finally Fund Our Government?

By: Dan Merry, Vice President Government Relations, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

With a continuing resolution (CR) slated to expire March 11, both chambers must resolve differences to pave the way to appropriate funds necessary to sustain the government for the rest of this fiscal year.

[The most recent CR](#), H.R. 6617, made it through the House on Feb. 8 with little trouble. But the Senate was slow to act, held up by a handful of COVID-related amendments that would have derailed the process. Sensing the president was ready to sign the bill, Senate leaders shut down the amendments and moved to a vote; the measure passed Feb. 17, just one day from the government shutdown deadline. Will there be resentment from those who want to continue waging efforts to get their COVID-related amendments into the full appropriations or the next CR? Will other emerging issues find their way into the appropriations process? The answers will hopefully be known well before March 11.

However, it is more likely we will see one of three results, and likely just at the deadline:

1. Congress passes full appropriations through the fiscal year.
2. Congress passes modified appropriations through the fiscal year.
3. Congress submits yet another CR to allow more time to resolve differences.

Given the three CRs already this fiscal year, the narrowing window of opportunity, and the competing priorities within both parties in an election year, there is little cause for overwhelming optimism that both chambers collectively will solve the biggest question: “Will Congress fully fund the government?”

Our country [sent troops to Eastern Europe](#) — they are stationed around the war in Ukraine as a show of support for our NATO allies. Make no mistake, our service members are in harm’s way. War is difficult to contain — especially when the leader of Russia already has shown a disregard for borders and the lives of innocents. [Ask your lawmakers to show support](#) for those under threat and for all members of the uniformed services community, past and present, by passing a budget now.

MOAA President Sounds Warning on Benefit Cuts in ‘The Hill’ Commentary


By: MOAA Staff

Just months after the end of the war in Afghanistan, and despite the massive buildup of forces in Europe, signs point to pressure on lawmakers to cash in some of the “peace dividend” at the expense of servicemembers, veterans, and their families and survivors. Instead of appreciation for the uniformed services community, such talk is “creating a much different, unsettling message,” wrote Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), MOAA’s president and CEO, in a Feb. 9 commentary published by The Hill.

That message: “Thank you for your service and sacrifice, especially after two decades of war, but we need to cut your pay and benefits to modernize.” Atkins addresses the “false choice between bullets and benefits” offered in some corners to justify increasing materiel budgets while leaving personnel accounts flat ... or worse. While this narrative poses a threat to the benefits earned through service, it’s not a new fight, Atkins points out, highlighting budget-driven moves made in the last decade such as:

- The “pay gap” from 2014 to 2016 short-changed servicemembers and will cause ripple effects in retirement compensation for decades.
- Increases to TRICARE pharmacy costs and program fees outpacing retiree cost-of-living adjustments.
- The Blended Retirement System, which will reduce the value of a 20-year military career and cost DoD less money, with unclear results beyond readiness issues, as “mid-career service members consider leaving early — and taking their wealth of experience out the door with them,” Atkins wrote.

Only by engaging on these efforts to lessen benefits now will the uniformed services community avoid similar actions in coming years, especially in the face of inflationary pressures and other fiscal threats. “Our economy may fluctuate,” Atkins wrote, “but our resolve on behalf of service members cannot.” MOAA will mobilize this spring for its annual advocacy campaign, with an eye toward protecting military pay along with other critical legislative objectives. Watch for more details at [MOAA.org](#), and bookmark our new Legislative Action Center to keep up with ongoing action items.




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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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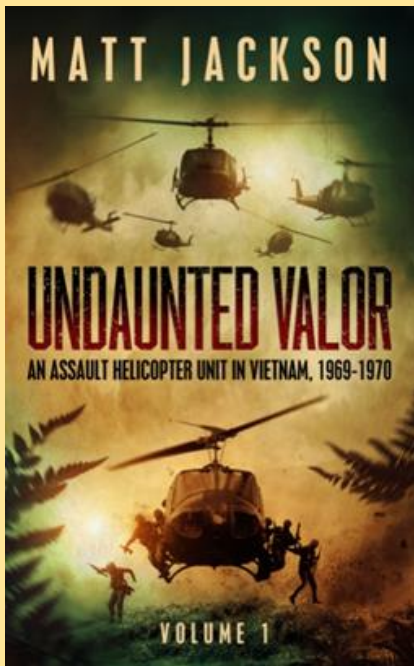
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Member Spotlight

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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Danielle Daugherty

Location Leader/ Funeral Director

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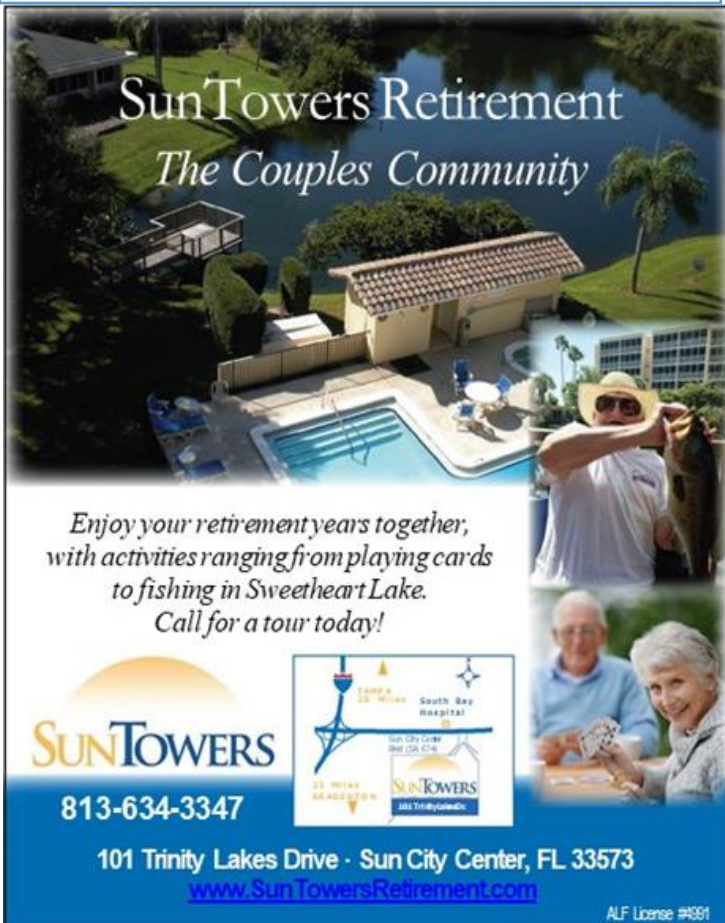
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Sun City Center Chapter Enrollment Form

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? _____

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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
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Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

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Or Current Resident

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