



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 2

February 2022

President's Message
COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family!

We had a great meeting in January. We recognized members who no longer will serve as board members. David Floyd, Jane Foppe, and Charles Conover served over 25 cumulative years in several board positions during their tenure. Although they are no longer board members, they will continue as active members of the chapter. We also recognized Chaplain Sam Rorer and his wife Pat. Over the past 10 years Sam provided spiritual guidance and support to our members, especially during these last 18 months with Covid as our constant companion. Pat served as Merchandise Coordinator and dragged chapter shirts and other merchandise to every meeting, selling, and ordering items as required. The Rorers will remain members, but they will soon pack their RV and head west. We pray God's blessing as they enter retirement.

James Rosone, author of over 25 books, was our guest speaker. He captivated our attention with tales of his experience as an interrogator in Afghanistan. We thank him for an engaging presentation.

Save the Date.... MOAA State Convention will be held on 9-12 Jun in West Palm Beach. Casino?

Mystery Murder Dinner? More info to follow on the **"Fun in the Sun"** convention.

Our next meeting will be on Feb 2nd. If you've been thinking of taking some adult classes, you'll enjoy Mr. Gabriel Alvarez Guzman from the Hillsborough County College Courses for Seniors. One is never too old to learn something new.

Thank you for being a part of our Chapter family, and I appreciate all you do for the chapter and our community.

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

February Program



My name is Gabriel Alvarez Guzman, and I am the new Enrollment Development Coordinator of the SouthShore Campus.

I was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and that is also where I completed my undergraduate and graduate

Continued on Page 3

2022 Chapter Officers

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

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IMPORTANT NEWS

We are all aware of the increasing cost of goods and services. Our chapter is no exception to this occurrence, and our caterer unfortunately had to increase their prices for 2022. **Please note that your Board of Directors chose, starting with the February 2nd meeting, to increase our luncheon costs for members to \$17 per person.** This modest increase will compensate for the increase from our caterer while keeping us in line with other service organizations in the surrounding area.

Your board knows how much our members appreciate the superb meals that Banquet Master always provides. They are also aware that luncheon prices have not increased in the past ten years! That time has now come!

\$17.00 - 2 February 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, 30 January 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:

1. Meatloaf with Gravy
2. Fried Chicken
3. Butter Crumb Baked Cod / Tarter Sauce

Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

Continued from Page 1

education. Finding a job straight out of College proved difficult. After working in the Customer Service field for several years, I decided to accept an offer to work as an Integrated Services Officer for a university in Wheaton, Maryland.

I never imagined how the ability to play a role in students' lives, even if just a small one, would bring me a great sense of fulfillment. A sense that I strongly associate with wanting to minimize the hardships graduates go through when they first start looking for work.

After moving to Florida, I started working for Hillsborough Community College last year. First as an Advising Generalist and now as an Enrollment Development Coordinator, I have been fortunate to continue my work to help students make informed decisions about their education. I am optimistic that with my help, current and future HCC students who transfer to Bachelor's Degrees or go straight into the workforce will have an easier time finding jobs that they like and reward their efforts.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about HCC, please contact me at **813.259.6138**

or galvarezguzman@hccfl.edu. To set up a phone or Zoom appointment, please go to <https://www.hccfl.edu/admissions/connect-us>. I will help you get started, give you information about programs and services, your next steps, and how to enroll.

If you want to schedule a campus tour, please message SSEnrollment@hccfl.edu.

Surviving Spouse Liaison

February Update

Jeannie Stratis

When we think of MOAA, most people think the organization is there for the active duty member or veteran. However, in a report from April 2021, out of the 350,000 members, 16% are surviving spouses. There is a lot of information available to our surviving spouses and fairly simple to find. Visit moaa.org, where you can sign up to receive The MOAA Newsletter. Click on email subscriptions and after inputting your email address, you will be able to select topics of interest to you, such as Advocacy, Finance, Health Care & Earned Benefits, Events, etc., and how often you would like information sent to you via email.

There is also a Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter which meets once a month and is open to all MOAA surviving spouses, in addition to a private Facebook group, MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends. There are a lot of resources available and as your Surviving Spouse Liaison, I am here for assistance as well.

In the next few weeks, let's get together and meet as a group. I will be reaching out to all of our surviving spouses via email and a phone call to let you know a date, time and location of our first meeting. Looking forward to meeting all of you and continuing this journey together. See you on February 2nd at the monthly luncheon.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Walt Cawein

Don't Miss Out on New Veterans Benefits

Captain Ryan Guina

Excerpts from The Military Wallet

You might be missing out on valuable military benefits. Some programs are chronically misunderstood, while others are brand new or have been modified.

Whole life insurance for disabled veterans.

Starting January 1, 2023, any disabled vet younger than 81 can obtain a whole life policy with a payout of \$40,000. Veterans Group Life Insurance coverage costs more than other insurance, but it is an option for vets whose health is too poor to qualify for coverage elsewhere.

Property Tax Breaks.

These tax breaks often are poorly publicized. Enter "property tax," "veteran" and your state into a search engine.

VA home loans may be used for rental properties and second homes.

A VA home loan can be used to buy a rental property with as many as four units as long as the veteran moves into one of the units. And there is no requirement that the property remain the vet's primary residence for the life of the loan. Go to Veteransunit-ed.com/valoans/occupancy-requirements-for-va-loans.

Better Burial Benefits.

Many vets know that they can be buried for free in a national veterans' cemeteries, and they can obtain a free headstone thru the VA. *New rules!* The names of spouses and/or dependent children can be engraved on VA issued headstones at no cost, and all family members listed on the headstone can be buried in that grave. The VA covers the cost of transporting deceased vets' remains to state or tribal cemeteries. Go to VA.gov/burials-memorials.

GI Bill education benefits no longer expire for vets who served in or after 2013.

But only for vets whose service included any date on

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 170 Chapter Members
- 80 Regular LIFE members
- 25 Regular ANNUAL members
- 31 Regular BASIC members
- 29 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:



- ❖ No new members this month

❖ MEMBERS LOST

- ❖ No members lost 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 are eligible for deduction on your federal Income tax form.*

or after January 1, 2013. Go to va.gov/gibill

New ways to get vet discounts.

Veterans can now obtain a Veterans ID card for free through the VA. Also, most states offer the option of having a veteran's designation included on their driver's license.

REMINDER – PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES



YOUR 2022
MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE
NOW PAYABLE

Chapter 2022 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.

Legislative Liaison Corner

February Update

David Floyd

2022 MOAA ADVOCACY PROJECTS

Here is what MOAA Advocacy is Proposing for 2022

- Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
- Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.
- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.

- Improve survivors' benefits.
- Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.
- Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.

Not all of the above will receive high priorities as events will dictate changes.

Sustain Pay Raises and Adequate BAH for the Troops and COLA Raises for Retirees

Pay raises and adequate housing allowances for the troops remain a high priority for those currently serving. MOAA engaged DoD early when BAH rates did not keep up with emerging housing demands in many sectors across our nation. We need DoD to be more responsive to these changes that significantly impact servicemembers and their families during a move.

Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit, and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays

MHS reform legislation has eroded the value of the pharmacy benefit and poses a threat to MTF pharmacy access and zero-copay prescription medications. Inflexible TRICARE pharmacy cost-sharing, governed by statute, requires beneficiaries to pay full copays even when the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery program is unavailable, or the full prescription quantity cannot be filled.

ACTIONS:

- Oppose any plans to restrict access to military treatment facility pharmacies.
- Require DoD report on frequency of TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery out-of-stocks and feasibility of offering lower mail-order copays at retail pharmacies for drugs unavailable due to Home Delivery program shortages.
- Secure legislation allowing DoD to charge pro-rated pharmacy copays for partial prescription quantity fills.
- Halt planned pharmacy copay increases passed into law with the FY 2018 NDAA.

Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections, and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent with Their Active-Duty Counterparts

Guard and Reserve troops can be activated with little notice. The pandemic response highlights why we need to ensure servicemembers are always ready. Along with this, the transition to the “total force” concept has transformed the National Guard and Reserve troops into an operational force that is part of America’s national defense strategy.

Their readiness is essential, but despite conducting the same duties as their active-duty counterparts at increasing frequencies, the reserve component is not receiving the same support.

ACTIONS:

- Pay, benefits, and retirement credit inequities must be eliminated to honor the vital role of our Guard/Reserve servicemembers.
- Financial readiness equals operational readiness; expanding Military Lending Act protections to the Guard/Reserve forces will support their activation with reduced stress.
- Forced arbitration agreements for the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) must be eliminated to protect servicemembers’ rights.
- Eliminate Guard/Reserve retirement pay processing delays.
- Support timely health care benefits for retirees, to include access to health care for those who earned early retirement based on cumulative deployment time.
- Assess the pandemic’s impact on short-notice deployments relative to employers and concerns noted above.

Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement pay and VA Disability Pay

At this time, those with a 40% VA-rated disability and those forced to medically retire under Chapter 61 have had their retirement pay offset for every dollar of VA disability received. The Congressional Budget Office estimates fixing concurrent receipt will cost \$33 billion over 10 years. An incremental strategy to break up concurrent receipt into smaller cost brackets can enhance progress.

ACTIONS:

- Develop solutions with professional staff members and the House and Senate for feasible language in the NDAA.
- Include the Major Richard Star Act in the FY 2023 NDAA to support 48,000 combat-injured servicemembers with concurrent receipt of their medical retirement pay and VA disability.

Our two Senators have not indicated support for this action. On behalf of our chapter I have written to Senators Rubio and Scott requesting their support and sponsorship of the Maj. Star Act in FY 2023 NDAA budget.



MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT TRUST

We support military men and women with funds from individuals and organizations who care.

The Many Ways MFST and YOU Help Military Families

- Financial Assistance in critical times of need
- PAWS for Patriots through Southeastern Guide Dogs: MFST supports three blind veterans per year at a cost of \$5,000 per veteran
- 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

1010 American Eagle Blvd., Suite 400
Sun City Center, Florida 33573-5276

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Benny Blackshire

This month I would like to share a story from a devotional book, In God We Still Trust, by Dr. Richard G. Lee. The title of the devotional is **“Faithful to the End.”**

Shortly before 1 am on February 2, 1943, the American transport ship, *Dorchester*, was steaming through the icy North Atlantic from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen, and civilian workers when a German torpedo struck the starboard side. The blast killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded.

Through the pandemonium, four Army chaplains: George L. Fox, Methodist; Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reform; brought hope to the men struggling to survive. They could be heard encouraging the frightened, praying for the dying, and guiding the disoriented toward the lifeboats.

Men jumped into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing. Other rafts drifted away before soldiers could get in. As men reached topside, the chaplains began distributing life jackets. When no more were available, the chaplains astonished onlookers, taking off their own and giving them to four frightened young men.

Then in the darkness, singing and shouting biblical encouragement, the four chaplains linked arms and grasped the railing of the ship as it slipped into the ocean. William Bednar said that, as he floated among dead comrades, “Their voices...were the only thing that kept me going”

Of the men aboard the *Dorchester*, 672 died, including the chaplains. Their heroic conduct offered a vision of greatness that stunned America.

Patriot's Prayer: Lord, use me to show others the selflessness of Christian love.

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.” (John 15:13) When we give our lives in service or sacrifice, Jesus calls us “friend.” Amen.



James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
and Clinics

Veterans Outreach Court for Hillsborough County Veterans Judge Daryl Manning

Are you a Hillsborough County Veteran looking to resolve fines, legal fees or other minor legal issues with the Veterans Outreach Court of the 13th Judicial Circuit?



Register at www.hillsclerk.com



Outstanding legal issues that may be addressed:

- Active misdemeanor warrants
- Fines
- Legal Fees
- Court Costs
- Ordinance Violations

For questions, please call the Public Defender's Office at (813) 277-1364

WHEN:
Friday, November 19, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mandatory Registration Deadline:
November 5, 2021

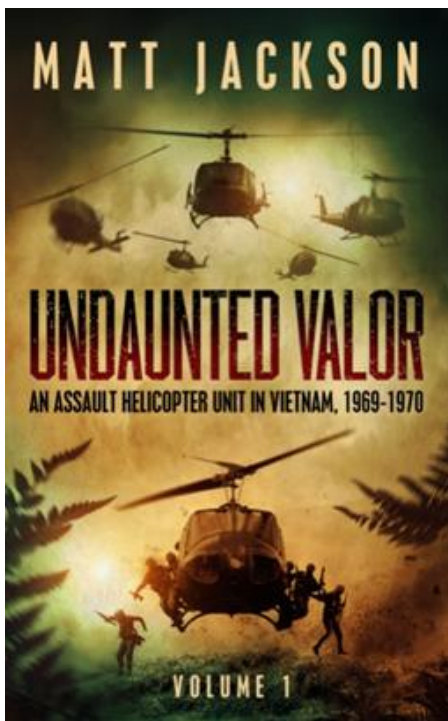
WHERE:
Grand Oaks Office Building
Hidden River Complex
8900 Grand Oak Circle, Tampa, FL 33627

<https://www.hillsclerk.com/Court-Services/Veterans-Outreach-Court>

Veteran Suicide Prevention Training

In partnership with the Florida Governor's Challenge, the FDVA has teamed up with The Fire Watch to launch a statewide Veteran Suicide Prevention Training. The Watch Stander program is a free, 30-minute on-line program that trains community members how to look for warning signs of Veterans in crisis and how to take action: <https://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers>

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Follow a young man from enlistment through Flight School and his 18 months in combat. A historical novel based on true events with those that he flew with. Available on Amazon.

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

2021 Memorial Day Sponsor

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Florida Council of Chapters Communiqué
Newsletter

See what the other Chapters are doing. The *Florida Council of Chapter's* newsletter, the "Communiqué" can be accessed by clicking on the link below. After you click the link and then click *Allow*, it may take a minute or so for the newsletter to pop up. It is worth the wait.

Click on:
www.moaaf.org/communique

Editor—Randy Fiebrandt . Send articles and photos to:
rfiebs1953@gmail.com


Freedom Plaza, Sun City Center
Proudly sponsored by Retired Officers' Corporation

Sun City Center MOAA Website

Don't forget to visit our 5-star website. Here is the link to the 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: jhhaney1@gmail.com



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

PRESERVE YOUR MILITARY HISTORY .

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 Friday of Each Month
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
By Appointment Only

If you are a Veteran or know Veterans that would like to share their stories, schedule your appointment now.

**To schedule your recorded interview at
Sun Towers Retirement Community
call 813-634-3347.**



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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.

Or Current Resident

Florida House District 57

Mike Beltran

Offices and Addresses:

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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 – 813856-1212
State – 850-7175059

Legislative Assistant – Brian Ontario

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

