



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 3

March 2022

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

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family,

We had another great meeting in February. Hopefully, our speaker from the Hillsborough Community College motivated us to pursue the opportunity of taking a class - learn a foreign language, take an art class or an astronomy class, or learn about nutrition. We are never too 'mature' to learn and expand our knowledge.

Continue to keep David Floyd's family in your thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to contact fellow members (to include our surviving spouses) who you don't see at our monthly meetings. We all love to hear someone tell us 'we missed you.' We are finalizing a chapter member directory that we will email to you within the next two weeks to facilitate this.

At our March meeting, we will provide information on the MOAA State Convention scheduled for 9-12 Jun in West Palm Beach. It's a fun event. Save the date and make plans to attend.

Plans are underway for our annual Memorial Day event on May 30th. Make plans to attend or serve as an usher. Information and sign-up sheets will be available at our monthly meetings until May. The leads are Benny Blackshire, Paul Wheat, and Charlie Collins. Feel free to contact them if you have questions.

Our next meeting will be on Mar 2nd. Our speaker will

be an estate planning attorney who will focus on the nuances of credit card balance responsibilities and VA benefit entitlements. We hope to see you then as we continue to build relationships and enjoy a delicious lunch.

Thank you for being a part of our Chapter family.

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

MARCH PROGRAM NEWS

Our March 2022 Speaker is Patrick Smith, an Estate Planning Attorney at 1653 Sun City Plaza (877-754-6764)

Attorney Patrick L. Smith was born in Lakeland, Florida. He graduated from Lake Region High School and received degrees in Political Science and Economics from Stetson University. He received his J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Attorney Smith worked at the Walt Disney World East Coast tax department from 2002 to 2003.



Attorney Smith is currently practicing in the fields of estate planning, corporations, and charitable giving. In addition to his current position, he serves on the board of directors for a local Florida corporation. He also hosts "The Attorney Patrick Smith Show," a legal call-in show, every Saturday morning

Continued on Page 3

2022 Chapter Officers

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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 March 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, 27 February 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: - Corned Beef & Cabbage
- Italian Herb Baked Chicken
- Salmon with Dill sauce

Oven Roasted Parsley Potatoes

Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: **Chef's selected desserts**

Beverages: **Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water**

from 8:00-9:00 AM on seven radio stations throughout central Florida. Patrick Smith is available for free seminars on any of his practice areas.

Attorney Smith resides in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, with his wife, Kristi, and his son, William.

Surviving Spouse Liaison March Update

Jeannie Stratis

March greetings to our surviving spouses and all of our Sun City Chapter members!

In February, our surviving spouses gathered to meet and greet with one another. We will have another gathering and a chance to meet and chat toward the end of March. To support our surviving spouses, our Board is establishing a Surviving Spouse Committee which will be included in our Chapter by-laws.

If you would like to attend the next meet and greet, or be a part of the Surviving Spouse Committee, contact Jeannie, jean-bennett.stratis@gmail.com, 813-758-7330.

"May your troubles be less. And your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness come through your door." ~ Irish blessing

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Benny Blackshire

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of David Floyd, who died on January 23, 2022. It was too late to get it into my column last month; however, we will greatly miss Dave. David was instrumental in so many different organizations in Sun City Center and was active in MOAA before I joined the chapter in 2014. He was always ready to step up when help was needed and served on the chapter Board of Directors for several years. His latest assignment was the chapter Legislative Liaison which he was doing in an outstanding manner. Our deepest sympathy goes out to David's wife Julie and all the family.

The following is a poem titled "He Hears and Answers" (author unknown), which I dedicate to our friend and companion, David Floyd.

There are times so difficult and hard to bear,

We feel we just can't cope;

But when we take it to our Lord in prayer

We find there's always hope.

He's touched with each infirmity,

His Holy Spirit's nigh,

He knows just what we're going through,

And always hears our cry.

Though circumstances may not change

The Way we think they should,

He answers each and every prayer

For His glory and our good.

Thank you, Father, that we can rely

On your tender loving care,

And that you always Hear and Answer

Every single prayer.

"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him"
(Psalm 91:15)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Walt Cawein

MOAA AT A GLANCE – NEVER STOP SERVING

MOAA is the nation’s largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

With thousands of members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families – MOAA is a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers.

MOAA’s highest priority is providing first-class service to its members. MOAA is the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all military community members. MOAA delivers expert advice and guidance to our members.

While MOAA advocates a strong national defense, it does not become involved in military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. The association’s board of directors has long believed that such decisions can be made only by those who have all the facts available to them.

MOAA plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA’s overarching goals are captured in its resolutions, which reflect the views of the entire membership. The membership provides input and votes on resolutions every two years.

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby - and does so actively - its status as an IRS tax-exempt veteran’s organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not support the election or defeat of candidates or political parties.

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:

No new members this month

⇒ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- Lt. David Floyd, Deceased
- Maj. Thomas Lutes, Moved
- Col. William Wait, Resigned

The Chapter reimburses \$100 to members who upgrade To LIFE when the 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.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



Officers: \$20.00
Surviving Spouses: \$15.00
Spouses are free

You may pay at the luncheon or mail your payment to:
MOAA SCC Chapter
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571

You may also pay your dues online by going to moaa.org. Log in and select "Chapters", then select "Pay Your Dues". Follow directions. We are the Sun City Center Chapter.

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 | \$ _____ |

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS & WAR DOGS REMEMBRANCE EVENT



Saturday, March 26, 2022 - 10 a.m.

Veterans Memorial Park

3602 U.S. 301 North in Tampa

Music | Refreshments | Pinning Ceremony | Speakers



**Hillsborough
County Florida**



Legislative Corner

There were some Legislative Victories for Veterans in 2021, the First Session of the 117th Congress.

Disability Compensation

S. 189, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, was enacted on October 8, 2021, and became Public Law 117-45. It provided an increase of nearly 6% for all disability compensation rates effective December 1, 2021.

Dependents and Survivors

S. 1095, the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021 impacts individuals who are entitled to educational assistance under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program. VA must disapprove courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning if such institutions charge a higher rate for tuition and fees than in-state tuition. S. 1095 was enacted on November 30, 2021, and became Public Law 117-68.

Education & Employment

H.R. 2523, the Training in High-demand Roles to Improve Veteran Employment Act or the THRIVE Act, mandates VA to update training and education policies and programs. This impacts VA's rapid retraining assistance program and notes that the list of high-demand occupations must be prepared in conjunction with the Department of Labor. H.R. 2523 was enacted on June 8, 2021, and became Public Law 117-16.

S. 894, the Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021, requires VA to consult with the Department of Defense (DOD) to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with health care occupations for employment with the VA during their separation from the Armed Forces. S. 894 was enacted on November 30, 2021, and became Public Law 117-67.

H.R. 5545, the Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act or REMOTE Act, extends vital protections for student veterans by extending remote learning waivers and ensuring that full housing benefits are given to student veterans as schools continue to conduct virtual classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. H.R. 5545 was enacted on December 21, 2021 and became Public Law 117-76.

Health Care Facilities.

S. 1910, the Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021 authorized VA to carry out specified major medical facility projects during FY 2021. The bill also indicates the maximum amount spent on each project. S. 1910 was enacted on July 29, 2021, and became Public Law 117-30.

H.R. 1510 directs VA to report on its policies and procedures relating to the usage and maintenance of video cameras for patient safety and law enforcement at VA medical facilities. It was enacted on November 23, 2021, and became Public Law 117-64.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

H.R. 2441, the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021 requires VA to establish and maintain three new centers of the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) Program in areas needing additional mental health care for rural veterans. The RANGE Program serves veterans in rural areas who are experiencing mental illness. H.R. 2441 was enacted on June 30, 2021, and became Public Law 117-21.

Minority and Underserved Veterans

H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act of 2021, requires VA to make all of its fact sheets available in English, Spanish, Tagalog, and each of the ten most commonly spoken languages and to establish a publicly available website that provides links to all VA fact sheets. H.R. 2093 was enacted on November 22, 2021, and became Public Law 117-62.

S. 1031 requires the Government Accountability

Office (GAO) to conduct a study to assess whether there are disparities associated with race and ethnicity concerning (1) compensation benefits administered by VA, (2) disability ratings determined by the VA, and (3) the rejection of fully developed claims for VA benefits. S. 1031 was enacted on November 23, 2021, and became Public Law 117-66.

Women Veterans

S. 796, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021, requires VA to implement the maternity care coordination program. VA must provide community maternity care providers with training and support concerning the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans, particularly regarding mental and behavioral health conditions. S. 796 was enacted on November 30, 2021, and became Public Law 117-69.

Veterans Provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2022

The National Defense Authorization Act was enacted on December 27, 2021, and became Public Law 117-81. Although this bill is specific to the DOD, there were many provisions specific to veterans and burn pit exposure on active duty, including those noted below:

Section 551. Troops-to-Teachers Program—Troops to Teachers supports veterans transitioning to careers in education for over 27 years. This section reauthorizes the program until July 1, 2025.

Section 584. Updates and preservation of memorials to chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery—This section authorizes updates to Chaplain's Hill at Arlington; however, this will come at no cost to the federal government. It requires private funding.

Section 725. Mandatory Training on Health Effects of Burn Pits—DOD shall provide mandatory training to all medical providers on the potential health effects of burn pits.

Section 740. Study on Incidence of Breast Cancer among Members of the Armed Forces Serving

on Active Duty—This section requires an assessment of the current mammography screening policies to include the feasibility of adding all of those who served in areas with open burn pits.

Section 741. Government Accountability Office (GAO) biennial study on Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER) program—The ILER program allows DOD to identify toxic exposures of service members. However, the program currently tracks those who have served within the last ten years and those currently serving. The GAO study will assess several key statistics, costs, effectiveness, and the feasibility of including past generations of veterans.

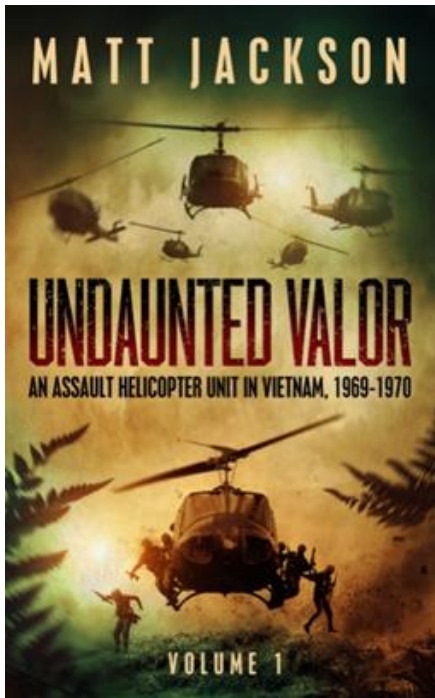
Section 6601. Eligibility of certain individuals who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces in Laos for interment in national cemeteries—An individual who served honorably with a special guerilla unit or irregular force operating from Laos in support of the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975, and resided in the United States at the time of death may be eligible for interment in national cemeteries.

Section 6602. Expansion of scope of VA open burn pit registry to include open burn pits in Egypt and Syria—VA's Burn Pit and Airborne Hazard's registry will now recognize Egypt and Syria as locations that had active burn pits.

Section 6605. National Global War on Terrorism Memorial—Authorizes the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial to be located on the national mall in Washington DC.

TRICARE BENEFICIARIES PLEASE NOTE!

This is not an advertisement, nor an endorsement; it is strictly an announcement for our Tricare beneficiaries that CVS[®] has announced that they are once again serving Tricare Beneficiaries at all their over 10,000 pharmacy locations. In addition to the pharmacy, CVS also offers Tricare Beneficiaries with Clinic services for minor illnesses, and minor injuries.



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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

2021 Memorial Day Sponsor




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- 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



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: jghaney1@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.

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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

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Here.

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Mike Beltran

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Florida House District 59

Andrew Learned

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Legislative Assistant – Brian Ontario

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Commercial solicitation of members using membership rolls and/or rosters is prohibited. Articles may be taken from MOAA and DoD publications. The Chapter is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Codes.

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

