



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 5

May 2022

President's Message

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family,

We pray you had a great month and enjoyed a wonderful Easter holiday. We are getting ready for our May meeting and hope that you are planning to join us. We are confident it will be as interesting and exciting as the April meeting. If you did not attend, you missed a full schedule with numerous guests including Deputy Merry and two members of the County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Susan MacManus will be our guest speaker at the May meeting. We always look forward to her political analysis and insight. You don't want to miss her presentation.

The chapter will sponsor the Memorial Day event on May 30th at the Veterans Memorial. If you are interested in serving as an usher or living flag tribute, let us know at the May meeting. This is without a doubt a solemn but amazing tribute to our military and first responder heroes that have fallen in the last year.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, May 4th. 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*.

MAY PROGRAM NEWS

Dr. Susan A. MacManus

Dr. Susan A. MacManus is a USF Distinguished University Professor (Political Science) Emerita. MacManus received her M.A. from the University of Michigan and Ph.D. from Florida State University.

MacManus has authored or co-authored numerous publications on Florida politics, including *Florida's Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government*, *Politics in Florida* (5th ed., 2019) *Ten Media Markets*, *One Powerful State*, *Young v. Old: Generational Combat in the 21st Century?* and *Targeting Senior Voters*. MacManus and her mother, Elizabeth, authored two local Florida history books: *Citrus, Sawmills, Critters & Crackers: Early Life in Lutz and Central Pasco County* and *Going, Going, Almost Gone: Lutz-Land O' Lakes Pioneers Share Their Precious Memories*. She is a native Floridian from a citrus-growing family.



From 1998 to 2015, she served as a political analyst for WFLA News Channel 8 (Tampa's NBC affiliate). Since 2016, she has been the political analyst for ABC Action News (Tampa's ABC affiliate). She is a featured columnist on sayfiereview.com—a widely read Florida-based political website.

MacManus has appeared on every major broadcast and cable television and radio network and been interviewed by major newspapers in Florida, the U.S., and abroad. She serves on the UF Bob Graham Center For Public Service

Continued on Page 3

2022 Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

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

1st VP

COL Gary Bridges, USA (Ret).(931) 624-1290
a227c3ait@gmail.com
Program Chair

2nd VP

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

TREASURER

1LT Bob Cochran, USA (Fmr).....773-7925
boblo15@msn.com

SECRETARY

LTC Ed Mooney, USA (Ret).....751-6844
Publicity/Media Coordinator
edmlc@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

CW3 Bob Pitcher, USA (Ret).....633-8344
rpitcher6666@gmail.com

DIRECTOR

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

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

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LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret).....260-3105
bwblacks@aol.com
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Jean Bennett Stratis.....758-7330
jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com
Surviving Spouse Liaison

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Maj James Haney, USMC (Ret).....220-8758
jhaney1@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 168 Chapter Members
- 98 Regular LIFE members
- 28 Regular ANNUAL members
- 37 Regular BASIC members
- 27 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary membership

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ No new members this month

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ Col. James Shumway, Deceased, 3/27/2022

❖ 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 - 4 MAY 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, 1 May 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:

- Italian Sausage & Peppers
- Chicken Parmesan
- Butter Crumb Baked Cod

Stuffed Shells with Marinara & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

Council of Advisors and on the Board of Directors of the Florida TaxWatch Center for Florida Citizenship. She chaired the Florida Elections Commission from 1999-2003 and is Florida's most-quoted political scientist. She is not affiliated with any political party.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Benny Blackshire

May is always a busy month. Our monthly luncheon features Susan McManus and is the largest attended luncheon of the year. Lots of member and unknown/non-member reservations with hopes that everyone will show up.

Planning for the Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on Monday, May 30th at the King's Point Veterans Theater, started back in January, but May is the final push before the big event. Invitations are sent out in the first part of May to all the invited dignitaries in our area and coordination with all the Sun City Center Veteran Service Organizations for on-stage representation, and flag bearers to be in The Living Flag Tribute, and for ushers to keep everything under control. It truly is a lot of moving parts as we get closer to the end of the month.

We had the April showers and now we are looking forward to the May flowers. It reminds me of a poem, the author I do not know, but I will share with you because **"Whatever God Does Is Best"**.

When trouble and sorrow come your way, and you do not understand,

Just remember there's a brighter day... in God's great eternal plan.

To everything there is a season, It's all under His control;

Whatever God does is best, my friend... He's the Keeper of our soul.

All things are right on His schedule, He is working His great plan,

Drawing us closer to His side... Strengthening the inner man.

Yes, everything has a purpose, Every trial, every test;

We can always rest assured, my friend... Whatever God Does is Best!

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God,

to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

MEMORIAL



COL James Shumway III, USA (Ret)

COL James Shumway III was active in this chapter for many years. He served in a variety of positions before becoming the Chapter President in 2011.

COL Shumway and his family were active members of Trinity Baptist Church where he also held many leadership positions.

Due to declining health, COL Shumway moved back to Virginia to be near his family. He died on March 27, 2022. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

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

LAST CHANCE – PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

Since October 2021, our members have been asked to please renew their commitment to our MOAA Chapter by paying their 2022 annual dues.

Our dues are established annually by your Board, and they are based on an established annual budget for the Chapter. To survive and thrive as a membership-based organization we must set membership dues at a level that enables our Chapter to operate successfully, accounting for ever increasing routine operational expenses and expenses associated with supporting our advocacy programs such as My Warriors Place, JROTC, Operation Warm Heart, and Scholarships. These programs are all worthy of our support.

Your established annual dues for 2022 are \$20.00 for officers and \$15.00 for Surviving Spouses. Spouses and significant others are free. I hope our members feel that our dues are not excessive and are fair and equitable.

First, I would like to thank the nearly 144 members who have paid their 2022 annual dues quickly and without fanfare. My question to the other nineteen members who have not yet paid their dues -- is there a reason for not paying your 2022 annual dues or is it a simple oversight? Do you no longer support MOAA's mantra to "Never Stop Serving"? Do you really want to be dropped as a member of our MOAA Chapter?

The continued commitment and engagement of all of our members to the work of your MOAA Chapter are what will continue to make a big difference in our community.

The choice is yours. Please let me know if you wish to resign from our Chapter by emailing me at waltcawein@gmail.com. If you decide to pay your dues, please make your check payable to SCC MOAA Chapter and mail it today:

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

MOAA-Backed Bill Improving SGLI, VGLI Passes Senate

By: Kevin Lilley

A MOAA-supported bill increasing the amount of life insurance available to servicemembers and veterans via two popular VA plans took a major step forward last week, passing the Senate via a voice vote. The Supporting Families of the Fallen Act (S. 2794) would increase the automatic maximum coverage under both the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) plans from \$400,000 to \$500,000. It would be the first coverage-cap increase for either plan since 2005.

"This legislation is ultimately about supporting the families of servicemembers," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). "MOAA looks forward to growing bipartisan support for this important modernization of life insurance."

The bipartisan bill heads to the House for consideration. The House version of the bill (HR 3793) introduced in June 2021 by Reps. Chip Roy (R-Texas) and Mike Levin (D-Calif.) has 13 co-sponsors. Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), who introduced the Senate version, told Military.com the bill "has good support" in the House. The bill marks a major step toward adjusting SGLI and VGLI coverage for inflation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator, \$400,000 coverage in January 2005 would represent more than \$595,000 in purchasing power in February 2022.

While the \$100,000 increase doesn't cover the entire amount, the legislation could set the stage for Congress to make further adjustments – moves necessary to protect the benefit of these insurance programs and preserve the financial security of military families.

Senate Bill Moves the Needle on Addressing Military Spouse Unemployment

By: Jen Goodale

A bill designed to reduce the staggering unemployment rate among military spouses took a major step forward this week with its introduction in the Senate by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) alongside Sens. John Boozman (R-Ark.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), and Mike

Rounds (R-S.D.).

The Military Spouse Hiring Act (S. 3909), the Senate companion to HR 2974, would expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to create a new target group for military spouses, whose jobless rate has remained between 22% and 24% for over a decade. Congress established the WOTC in 1996 to incentivize businesses to hire members of select target groups who face significant barriers to employment. There are currently 10 target groups, including qualified veterans, ex-felons, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.

Employers who take advantage of WOTC receive a tax credit equal to 40% of up to \$6,000 of wages paid to, or incurred on behalf of, an individual from one of the target groups in their first year of employment who performs at least 400 hours of work for that employer.

Military-mandated moves every two or three years have a significant impact on a spouse's ability to find and maintain employment. Additionally, employed spouses often see their résumés discarded by future hiring managers due to the sporadic nature of work experience (different locations and jobs) and gaps in employment history resulting from short assignments (a school, for example).

Reducing the high unemployment and underemployment rates among military spouses will take a multi-pronged approach:

Programs and Resources: DoD must maintain and expand programs and resources focused on enhancing professional development, upskilling, and education.

Licensure Portability: The Defense-State Liaison Office must continue to develop interstate compacts for the multiple professions requiring licenses or certifications. The licensure/certification fee reimbursement program is a positive step toward addressing fees associated with PCS moves.

Incentivized Hiring: Businesses are reluctant to hire military spouses due to the short time they typically reside in one location. Including military

spouses as a target group under WOTC is an important policy lever to address this reluctance.

MOAA continues to work closely with colleagues at the National Military Family Association and Hiring Our Heroes to increase awareness of this important legislation – one more tool to address the military spouse unemployment rate. With nearly a third of servicemembers considering leaving the service because of concerns with spouse employment, this is not just an issue of family financial well-being — it's a recruitment and retention issue.

Military Treatment Facilities Adding QR Codes to Prescription Packaging


By: Karen Ruedisueli


Throughout 2022, military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies will be replacing printed monographs or MedGuides (the paper medication guides that come with many prescription drugs) with QR codes on prescription packaging. Patients can request a paper copy if they prefer the printed version.

Benefits of switching to QR codes for drug monographs include reduced use of paper, increased privacy of patient information, and the ability to share more robust information in a variety of formats to best meet patient needs. Scanning the QR code will open a web link allowing patients to access prescription information sheets, brief informational videos, tools to help remind you to take your medication, and the ability to share information about your medication with family members, caregivers, or health care professionals.

The use of QR codes has exploded during the pandemic as establishments switched to digital options for everything from restaurant menus to real estate listings to MOAA's Legislative Action Center (code pictured). Most mobile phones have a QR code reader integrated into the camera. To access drug information, open your phone's camera and point it at the QR code on your prescription vial from about 6 inches away. It will scan automatically and provide a link to additional information.

Your MTF pharmacist is also a resource for information about your prescriptions. Patients are still encouraged to ask their pharmacist any questions they may have about their medications.




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SUN CITY CENTER
 1653 Sun City Center Plaza
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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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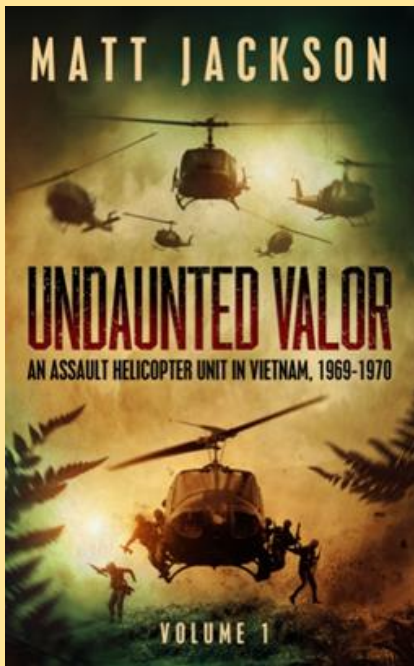
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Member Spotlight

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
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MARINE CORPS **TUE, 5/17**
NAVY **WED, 5/18**
AIR FORCE & SPACE FORCE **THU, 5/19**
COAST GUARD **FRI, 5/20**

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MISSION BBQ
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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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Mike Beltran

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Tel.

Local - 813-653-7097
State – 850-717-5057

Legislative Assistant - James Jacobs

Florida House District 59

Andrew Learned

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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>

