



**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](http://www.sccmoaa.org)



**Volume 38 Number 9**

**September 2022**

## President's Message

**COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)**

Greetings to the Sun City Center Chapter family,

I can't believe how fast these two months have gone by. It's almost time for our next MOAA chapter meeting, and I hope to see you there. There are several important items that we'll be taking care of in the next few months: 1) The next meeting will be on Wed, Sept 7th. Same time... Same place. Please RSVP by Sept 4th. The guest speaker will be an author you may recognize from our meetings. The chapter directory will also be available for your review at the Sept meeting. We'd like to ensure all the information is correct before we disseminate. 2) The board has updated the chapter by-laws. We'll send them out with the Oct newsletter for your review and vote on the revision at the Nov meeting. In addition to Nov's guest speaker, we will also have a visit from the national MOAA office. 3) In Dec, we will have the installation of officers and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season.

On a sad note, we announce that Jim Haney has resigned from the chapter and moved from the area. Please read the tribute to Jim Haney in the Chaplain's corner which outlines his support, dedication, and commitment to our chapter and other Veteran organizations in the area.

Lastly, several members of the chapter visited My Warrior's Place earlier in the month. Read the article in the newsletter for details of the visit.

I am honored to serve you. My goal is to, in coordination with the board, provide you with interesting, productive, and enjoyable meetings that you look forward to attending. We recently reached out to our members who have not attended a meeting since the pandemic. Each of you can help me in this endeavor by reaching out to a member you have not seen in a while.

Till the meeting on the 7th, stay safe, be blessed, and *never stop serving*.

## Our September Program

Matt Jackson is the product of a Navy Submarine family and grew up on almost every submarine base on the East Coast. Growing up he lived in Italy as well and graduated from high school in Japan. He held many intriguing summer jobs which included refueling light airplanes and taking flying lessons instead of cash, setting chokers on a logging crew in Oregon, Ordinary Seaman on a merchant oil tanker in the Far East, and a forklift driver in a warehouse. After two years of college, he joined the Army on February 5, 1968 and arrived in Vietnam on February 5th, 1969, as a Warrant Officer helicopter pilot. He served 18



months flying helicopters and was commissioned in May of 1970 to First Lieutenant, Infantry. He went on to serve for 25 years commanding rifle companies, airborne infantry companies and, during Operation Desert Storm, commanded an Air Assault

Infantry Battalion in the 101st Airborne Division. In 2018, he wrote his first book about his time in Vietnam which grew into a three-book series, *Undaunted Valor*. He has also written a three-book series on Desert Shield/Storm entitled *Crisis in the Desert*. His current project is another three-book series on the Easter Offensive of 1972. In addition, he has written a screenplay that a major studio is currently considering based on his third *Undaunted Valor* book, *Lam Son 719* which he will discuss at the meeting. *Lam Son 719* was the largest battle that Army Aviation has ever fought in and changed Army Aviation into what it is today.

## MOAA LUNCHEON PRICE INCREASE

NEW LUNCHEON MEAL PRICE IS \$19 per person.



If you have been to the grocery store lately you know how food prices have really gone up. Likewise, our caterer, Banquet Masters, is being hit with the same cost increases for the food they provide. They have informed us that starting in September the cost per person per meal will increase by \$2. Consequently, the chapter cost must also be raised by \$2. The price for the September luncheon will be \$19 (up from \$17) per person. As the FCOC West Central Area VP, I have 5 chapters that are in my area. The SCC Chapter continues to have the lowest meal cost of the chapters and offers the best meal option with 3 entrees on the buffet each month. Banquet Masters for years never had an increase to the chapter, but with inflation the way it is today, increases are necessary to stay afloat. We look forward to seeing everyone again in September as we enjoy hearing a great speaker and having a great luncheon.

Benny Blackshire



## 2022 Chapter Officers

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### DIRECTOR

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Maj James Haney, USMC (Ret).....(813) 220-8758  
[jghaney1@gmail.com](mailto:jghaney1@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### ❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 160 Chapter Members
- 94 Regular LIFE members
- 26 Regular ANNUAL members
- 35 Regular BASIC members
- 28 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

### ❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ No new members this month

### ❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST (Failure to pay 2022 Dues)

- ❖ Winsor Aylesworth, Captain, USN
- ❖ Rosemary Clifton, LTJG, USAF
- ❖ Robert Duncan, Major
- ❖ John Paulk, Major General
- ❖ Rodney Rivard, Colonel, USAF
- ❖ Robert Ryan, LTC, USA
- ❖ Bryan Stotts, LTCOL, USMC

❖ 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.*

**\$19.00 - 7 September LUNCHEON - \$19.00**

**To Register: 813-924-1983**

**Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 4 Sept 2022**

**Florida Room, Atrium Building**

945 North Course Lane, Sun City Center, FL 33573

Please give full names of members and guests, total number attending. Cost is \$19.00/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:

- Chicken Marsala
- Onion Crusted Salmon
- Meatloaf with Gravy

Mashed Potatoes & Vegetable du Jour

**Desserts:** Chef's selected desserts

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



# Surviving Spouse Corner

Jean Bennet Stratis

Greetings MOAA members!

I hope you are all doing well this summer. The following information was posted in a MOAA Surviving Spouse Facebook page, and I found it to have a lot of valuable information. Please take the time to read the article and check your DFAS account to ensure all of your information is correct and up to date. Looking forward to seeing each of you at our September luncheon!

## Your Retired Pay Account Needs a Regular Checkup

It's important for retirees to regularly review and update their retired pay account. Keeping your account current will ensure that DFAS can get in touch with you if there is information you need to know about your retired pay and help make sure that outdated information doesn't cause difficulties for you or your loved ones down the road. Use this handy checklist to do a retired pay checkup at least once a year. A good time to do it is just after you finish your tax preparation, since you'll have the documents handy. Or you can do it at any time that is convenient for you by using myPay.

1. Is your mailing address current? You might be surprised to learn DFAS gets a lot of returned mail. If you moved and haven't told us, we won't know how to reach you. Let's keep the lines of communication open! You can easily log in to your myPay account and check "Correspondence Address" under "Pay Changes" on the side menu as part of the annual account check-up: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/> Or, check your mailing address on your Retiree Account Statement.

2. Is your email address in myPay current? Make sure you have an email address in myPay and that it is current. Email is the easiest and fastest way to communicate. If we have an email address, you will hear news faster. Plus, now you can get email status notifications when you submit some requests for your account if you have a valid email address in myPay (see the "New from DFAS" article later in this issue). It only takes a minute to check your email address in myPay. At the top of the myPay account menu, select "Personal Settings" and then in the side menu on the left, select "Email Address" to view the email address(es) on file with DFAS. Make sure you indicate the primary email address you want us to use and check the box to indicate if the address is still valid. Delete any old email addresses you no longer use. If you have a valid email address in myPay, you can receive notification about the DFAS Retiree Newsletter and about your branch of service retiree newsletter, as well as information about your pay account.

3. Are your allotments correct? Review your allotments at least once a year. Look under "Pay Changes" for "Allotments" in the menu on the left side of the myPay account. Check each allotment and the allotment amounts. Make sure each allotment is current and the amount is correct. You might also consider moving allotments for bill payments to your online bank account where you would have more control and flexibility in the timing and changes to your payments. Please keep in mind that some allotments cannot be changed using myPay. These include allotments that are paid via paper check, those for your federal benefits, such as FEDVIP, TRICARE and NSGLI, and those that are not voluntary allotments. If you have a question about allotments for your feder-

al benefits, please contact that organization directly. DFAS cannot answer questions about or make changes to your federal benefit allotments. If you have a question about an allotment that cannot be changed in myPay, please contact our Customer Care Center.

4. Is your income tax withholding correct? If your income changes, you move to another state, or there are changes in the tax laws, you should look at the federal or state income tax withholding information in your account. You can verify and update your tax withholding information yourself in myPay. Click on "Federal Withholding" or "State Withholding" under "Pay Changes" in the menu on the left to see if your withholding meets your current need. You may also mail or fax us a new 2022 IRS Form W-4 to request a change to your federal withholding. DFAS is unable to provide tax advice. If you have tax or withholding questions, we recommend you consult a tax professional or the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov>. You can also use the IRS estimator at: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator>

5. Have you had any major life changes? If you get married, lose a spouse, or have a child, that change can affect your account. Changes may need to be made to your Survivor Benefit Plan information or your Arrears of Pay beneficiary. To make changes to your Survivor Benefit Plan coverage, please send DFAS a copy of the official documentation (marriage license, divorce decree, death certificate or birth certificate), along with the request to update your account. Retirees should always notify DFAS as soon as possible about a major life change.

6. Is your Arrears of Pay beneficiary correct? Retirees should choose a beneficiary for any arrears of retired pay that may be due when they pass away. Make sure the designation is current and confirm that the beneficiary's address is up to date. You can check this information by clicking on the "Beneficiary for Arrears" link under "Pay Changes" in the menu on the left side of your account in myPay. Beneficiary designation changes can be made through myPay, as well as updating the beneficiary's address information.

7. Are your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage and beneficiary correct? Your Retiree Account Statement (RAS), available in myPay, has a lot of information on it about pay, deductions, taxes and SBP. The SBP section has five lines for members who participate in SBP. The most important information for you to check: type of coverage, and date of birth of your spouse beneficiary (if applicable). If you divorced since retiring, carefully check your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) participation status. Under the law, SBP coverage for a spouse ends with a divorce. Coverage for a former spouse does not continue after the divorce unless certain actions are taken. To continue SBP coverage for a former spouse, either (a) the retiree must voluntarily request coverage be continued for the former spouse, or (b) the former spouse must request the coverage (but she/he may do so only if a court order requires the coverage). Certain time limits and other conditions apply. If those actions were not taken, the coverage for the former spouse has ended. This could have important consequences for your survivors. To check your SBP coverage status, review your Retiree Account Statement (RAS) carefully. Make sure that the "SBP Coverage Type" properly reflects "former spouse" or "spouse" (as applicable to your individual circumstances). Please see our special webpage "How to Identify the Status of Spouse/Former Spouse SBP Coverage on your Retiree Account Statement" for more details: <https://www.dfas.mil/.../Spouse-or-Former-Spouse-SBP.../> Make a plan to review your pay account information regularly. Pick a date to review your retired pay account information. It doesn't matter if it's your retirement anniversary date, birthday, first of the year, or tax time. Set a yearly reminder to look over information to make sure your account is up to date.



In early August, ten members of the chapter visited 'My Warrior's Place', a retreat center for veterans, military service members, law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and Gold, Blue, and Silver Star families. The mission of MWP is to heal the hurt of war. To provide a relaxed and peaceful setting where that healing can begin. MWP is rustic, unassuming, but extremely relaxing where those in need, particularly those suffering from PTSD, can walk the paths or just sit, meditate, and reflect. It's a place where you'll always find someone to talk to. Boating, kayaking, fishing are activities that are offered. Studio, 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom facilities are available at low cost although they will never turn away anyone in need.

MWP does not have a staff. Everything from administration to maintenance to some construction is handled by volunteers. And as Kelly Kowal, CEO and the person behind the vision says, "you can never have enough volunteers ... or money".

After an indoor lunch (it was a scorcher that day), we got in golf carts and toured the 5-acre facility. We saw one of the apartments, the outdoor meditation center, the dock, and the newest project, a 4-service



dog kennel. Along with the upkeep of the apartments, expanding the kennel to a 10-dog kennel is a priority.

Our chapter is an advocate of My Warrior's Place and provides a donation every year. You may ask yourself. What can I do? Here's how you can get involved.

1) **\$\$\$\$**. Kelly Kowal has a vision. More apartments. A larger kennel. A new dock to support the water activities. If you have access to building materials or know someone who does, Kelly will take them off your hand.

2) As we rode around the compound, I saw areas where we could help. Benches in the pathways could be cleaned and varnished... landscaping .... painting ... If you're interested, let me know. We can get a group together and provide a few hours of service.

3) Come get your quack on at THE DUCKED-UP DERBY!!!

Saturday, September 24th, 2022, 11:00am - 2:00pm at MWP, 101 22ND STREET NW, RUSKIN, FL 33570. Winner is guaranteed a \$1,000+ cash & prize package with a chance to win \$50k! Winning Duck Team will have a chance to win \$50k and Team with the most ducks will also have a chance to win \$50k!!!! There will also be a prize for the "Most Lame Duck" out of losers!!!

4) You can serve as an ambassador. Tell people about MWP. Get the word out. It's a wonderful and worthwhile resource for those who have paid the price and find themselves lost and in despair because of the wars they have been a part of.

If you would like to visit MWP, contact Kelly. She is always available to share her vision.

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## Attention: MOAA Shirt Sale and Give Aways



We have ordered a new supply of MOAA shirts for men and women and will have them available at the September Luncheon. Those of you that preordered and paid for a shirt will be able to pick it up at the merchandise table. We will now have all sizes for men and women available for new members and others that may want a new shirt. The manufacturer had a price increase, but we are keeping the price at \$25 for each shirt.

number of shirts with the "Old Logo" on them and want to clear them out of the inventory. **BONUS!** If you come to the September luncheon you may have an old logo shirt for free on a first come first grab basis.

**FREE!** We have limited sizes of the old logo shirts:

Men's Blue – 4 2XLg, 2 Lg, 2 Sm.; Men's White – 1 Med.

Women's Blue – 4 XLg.

**Stop by the merchandise table before the meeting to see other MOAA merchandise we have for you.**

## Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Chapter President Eunice Patxot and 2nd Vice President Walt Cawein present chapter stalwart Jim Haney a “parting gift” as he moves out of the area. Jim will be sorely missed!



## The Meaning of Tap's.



military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a burial hymn for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born. The words are:

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps...' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song? If not, you might be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full

*Day is done.  
Gone the sun.  
From the lakes.  
From the hills.  
From the sky.  
All is well.  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.*

*Fading light.  
Dims the sight.  
And a star.  
Gems the sky.  
Gleaming bright.  
From afar.  
Drawing nigh.  
Falls the night.*

*Thanks, and praise.  
For our days.  
Neath the sun  
Neath the stars. Neath the sky as we  
go. This we know.  
God is nigh*

Author unknown.



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 204 HONOR COURT AWARDS CEREMONY

On Tuesday, July 28, 2022, the Boy Scouts of America Troop 204 held their Honor Court Awards Ceremony at the United Methodist Church in Sun City Center, Florida, to award Merit Badges to the scouts which had earned them. Additionally, LTC (Ret.) Benny Blackshire representing the Sun City Center Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) presented a letter to the troop and individual certificates for Outstanding Achievement to two scouts, Obadiah Wiseman and Noah Westbrook, for their participation in the 2022 Memorial Day Ceremony, which was held at the Veterans Theater at Kings Point, Sun City Center. The scouts participated in the wreath laying ceremony at the end of the Memorial Day Ceremony.



LTC (Ret.) Benny Blackshire with scouts Obie Wiseman and Noah Westbrook after presentation of the Outstanding Achievement Awards.

## YOUR SCC MOAA CHAPTER REPRESENTED AT RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT



Nancy Decker, from the Southshore Christian's Women's Connection won the MOAA basket!

**Sun City Center MOAA Website**

**Don't forget to visit our 5-star website.**  
**[www.sccmoaa.org](http://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: [rpitcher6666@gmail.com](mailto:rpitcher6666@gmail.com)**

## The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

"I sometimes look up and watch in amazement and wonder at an eagle soaring so high and effortlessly, rising in the air currents with barely a need to move its wings. The eagle is often thought of as the king of birds, being able to soar higher and for longer than any other. Because of this, it is seen as being closer to God and sometimes a symbol to represent the Lord himself. I wish I could be that eagle and see the world from high with its sharp eyes."

By John Hanson.

I am devoting my Chaplain's Corner space this month to a friend, a veteran, and a great contributor to our chapter. Major Jim Haney, USMC (Ret) moved to Punta Gorda, Florida on August 12, 2022. We will miss his service to the chapter and to the community.

Jim and his wife Priscilla moved to Sun City Center in August 2005. He joined MOAA and the SCC Chapter during 2008 after retiring from Raytheon in St. Petersburg. He became active in the leadership of the chapter culminating in serving as Chapter President for 2 years in 2021/2022. Jim had the "Can Do" attitude as he would always step up when called upon. I saw Jim as the Eagle in the poem above. He would soar higher and longer than anyone I knew. Jim was not only active in MOAA but also active in the SCC Leathernecks Club until it closed during 2019 and merged into American Legion Post 246. He was on the Board of Directors for the Military Family Support Trust (MFST), a member of American Legion Post 246, on the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, and on the Veterans Memorial Park and Museum Committee of Hillsborough County. Jim also represented the local chapters of MOAA & MOWW as a member of the local Chamber of Commerce and there are probably others like Bob's Vets, etc. that I could include. Jim always had a heart for the Boy Scout programs supported by the local military organizations and often would be at the presentation ceremonies where the scouts would receive their awards and medals provided by the military organizations. Jim will be missed by our chapter and the community as one who was always there supporting us and the community. We wish him all the best in his new location, and may he be a blessing there as he was in SCC. *HOO-RAH!*



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**7th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Saturday October 1 2022**

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:**  
<http://HCVHV7.ezregister.com/>  
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**7:00AM Golfer Check In**  
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A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state: 1(800)HELP-FLA (435-7352). [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com) Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.





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- Service Dogs for veterans with PTSD and other traumatic injuries
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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](http://mfst.us)**

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



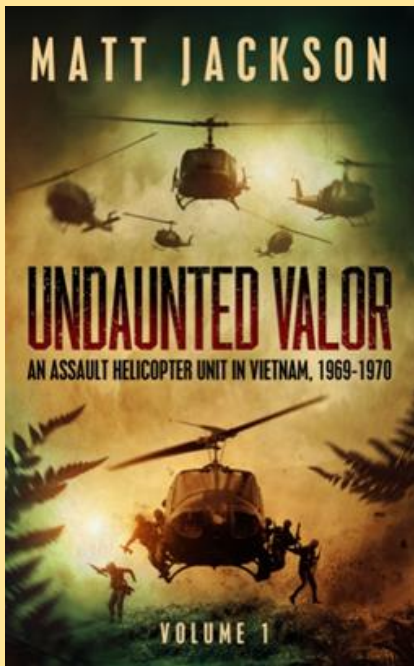
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Are you involved in a community event, activity, or service? Send us a picture and a description of 'you' in action and we will highlight you in the chapter newsletter!

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# SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER

Post Office Box 5693  
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Website: [sccmoaa.org](http://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? \_\_\_\_\_

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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](mailto: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.

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Legislative Assistant - James Jacobs

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