



President's Message

CDR Bill "Bullet" Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

May the rains fall soft upon your fields,
May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back and
May the sun shine warm upon your face.

At this time of year, it would seem that everyone is part Irish.

St. Patrick's Day—observed every **March 17**— started as a religious holiday, but over time it's become a celebration of Irish culture. While many cities in the US may celebrate the day and their Irish heritage, it isn't a national holiday and most people will celebrate after work on the day or on the surrounding weekends.

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday so most people have the whole day off. However, people in Ireland don't tend to be as enthusiastic about the holiday as those in the US.



In the USA, around St Paddy's Day, many publications provide recipes or guides to help people turn their food or drink green, including beer. Chicago has long held a tradition of dyeing its river green every year. While turning everything green is common in the US, it is rarely seen in Ireland, as it's considered a bit of a gimmick.

It is in this vein that we celebrate Paddy's Day as a secular event. It is packed with parades, good luck charms, and all things green.

April Program

Attorney Patrick Smith

Born and raised in Lakeland, Florida, Attorney Patrick Smith graduated from Lake Region High School, Stetson University, and the University of North Carolina School of Law. He will discuss elder law, estate planning, probate, and trust administration and answer questions at our April 3rd Luncheon.

After being admitted to the Florida Bar in 2006, Attorney Smith joined Joseph F. Pippen Jr. and Associates Law Offices. While with the firm, he served thousands of estate planning and administration clients, eventually rising to managing partner responsible for the firm's eastern division offices. In 2021, he founded the Law Offices of Patrick L. Smith and Associates and continues to serve clients throughout Central Florida and the Bay Area.



In his spare time, Attorney Smith enjoys baseball, boating, and spending time with his wife, Kristi, and son, William. He hosts a live radio call-in program, "The Attorney Patrick Smith Show," each Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on multiple stations throughout Central Florida. Attorney Smith is also a noted speaker, has been invited to address numerous local organizations, and is available for free seminars on estate planning and related topics.

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bwblacks@aol.com

Chaplain

\$19.00 - 3 April LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 31 March 2024

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 (cash, check, or credit card). Social hour begins when you arrive, and the Business meeting starts at 11:00 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:

- Carved Sugar Glazed Ham
- Chicken Marsala
- Spinach & Mushroom Lasagna, Vegetarian

Starch: Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

Submitting Articles and Pictures for Military Officers Call

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best (Arial or Calibri 12). You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter.

Pictures should have a .jpg or .png extension. If you are sending pictures, please include the activity and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers. Please ensure that you have the permission of the persons in the photos for publishing.

If you have questions about your submission, contact Cliff Korn newsletter@sccmoaa.org.

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

I had a total knee replacement on February 21 and was not able to make the March 6 meeting/luncheon. I heard the speaker was good and the food was good also. Speaking of food, Banquet Masters has told us that any leftover food may be taken home by our members if they have their own containers to take it in. I suggest, if you are interested in taking food home, that it only be enough for one additional meal.

Back to my knee replacement surgery. My surgeon used robotics which meant my recovery will be faster with less bruising or swelling. This was my second knee replacement, and the second one is much better than my first. Of course, they sent me home after the surgery on a walker and gave me two weeks of in-home physical therapy. March 6 was the end of my 2 weeks of therapy, and I was already walking part time with a cane and part time with the walker. By week three I was walking with my cane when outside and not requiring anything when I was indoors. Now I will have another four to six weeks of outpatient therapy, and the doctor said I should be back to my normal activity. It is amazing how the new techniques and advancements in medicine have made joint replacements so much easier. I do thank God for my quick recovery and will leave you with the following from "In God We Still Trust," by Dr. Richard G. Lee.

After receiving Paul's first letter, the Corinthian church was swayed by false teachers who accused Paul of being proud, unimpressive, and unqualified to be an apostle of Jesus Christ. Recognizing this as spiritual war, Paul sent Titus to Corinth to address this issue.

Every believer needs to know that the opposition that comes their way has its source in evil forces that oppose God and His truth. As Paul himself wrote, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Whether they face immorality of false teaching, church leaders must take action to remedy the problem. The same is true of the government. President Thomas Jefferson stated, "When once a republic is corrupted, there is no possibility of remedying any of the growing evils but by removing the corruption and restoring its lost principles; every other correction is either useless or a new evil."

"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Like what you see in this newsletter? There's even more in the Florida Council of Chapter's newsletter at this link!

<https://moaaf1.org/communique.aspx>

Sun City Chapter Honorary Member Bill Hodges has an award winning podcast that has information that will interest you. To listen to this Veteran's Corner Radio podcast, click on the link below.

<https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/952243.rss>

Our March Meeting



Lee dePalo, Director of Community and Veterans Services (CVS) Department of Manatee County



Did you know we have a Facebook Page? We do! It's a great place to see what's happening in our chapter, and it allows you to express your opinions on our activities and keep in touch with other members. If you have a Facebook account, click the logo/link to "like" and follow our page. If you don't yet have a Facebook Account, Facebook makes it easy to establish one.



See our **NEW** website for everything you ever wanted to know about our chapter!

<https://sccmoaa.org>

Sun City Center Chapter in our Community



At opening ceremony chapter members Walt Cawein and Paul Wheat inform attendees the history of FunFest



Walt presents key to the proceedings to SCC Community Association President, Ron Clark.

Our chapter members were not only present but prominent in Sun City Center's FunFest event last March 9th. FunFest is SCC's largest annual event. In addition to showcasing SCC's clubs, there is plenty of great food, a free health fair, free entertainment and demonstrations, business vendors, and exhibits by nonprofit organizations. Of the several thousand attendees we were able to reconnect with members who haven't participated in chapter events in a while, sign some new members, and let community residents know who MOAA is and what we do. It was a fun but breezy day enjoyed by all who got to participate.



Able staffing the SCC MOAA chapter's booth are Chapter President Bill Kirkpatrick, Director Cliff Korn, and 1st Vice President Danny Melton. You can tell from the expressions that it was no fun at all!



Support Your MOAA Charities

IRA Charitable Rollover/Qualified Charitable Distribution

This donation option is ideal for those who are 70½ years old or older and own an IRA. A qualified charitable distribution taken from your traditional IRA counts as a distribution for purposes of the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules. You can donate all or part of your annual RMD (up to the \$100,000 limit) without having to count that distribution as taxable income. To do this, you must instruct your financial advisor, bank, or IRA administrator to transfer funds from your traditional IRA directly to a public charity, such as The MOAA Foundation or the MOAA Scholarship Fund. Be sure to request your name and address be listed on the distribution check or accompanying materials and send it to:

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Legislative Liaison Corner

LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret)

Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipts

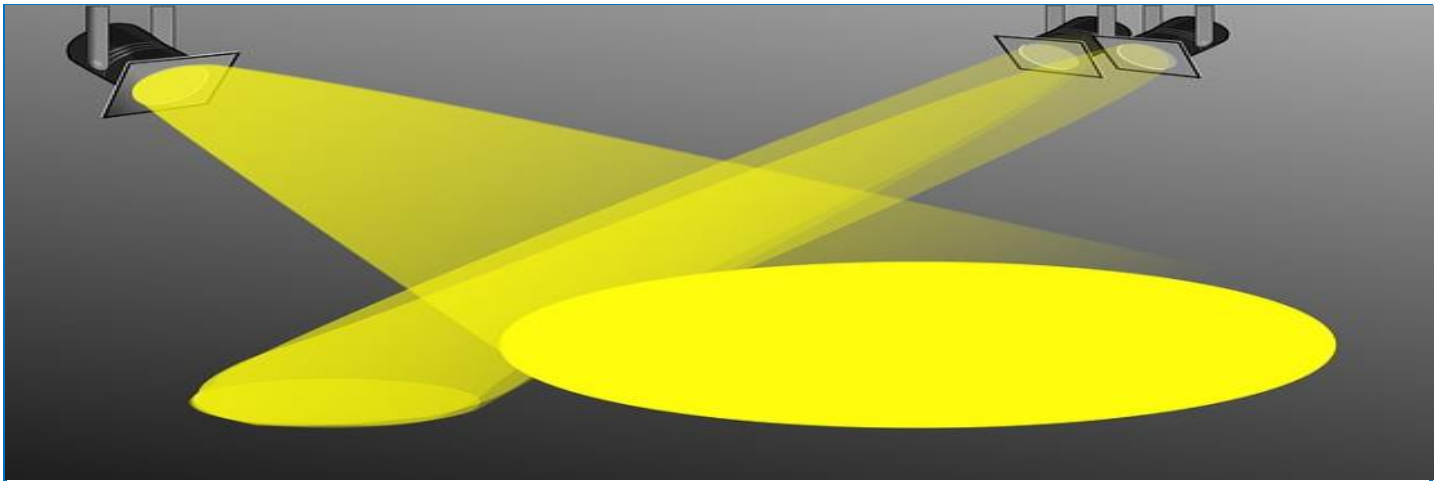
The Major Richard Star Act, which is currently being reviewed in the U.S. Congress, aims to amend current policies affecting combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with less than 20 years of service. The bill seeks to enable these veterans to receive both their retirement pay and disability compensation without reduction, addressing a long-standing issue where veterans with less than 20 years of service and a disability rating below 50% face reductions in their retirement pay equivalent to their disability pay. This legislation could impact around 50,000 retirees, offering them significant financial relief.

While the House Armed Services Committee has advanced the bill, challenges remain, particularly regarding how to fund the proposed changes, which are estimated to cost approximately \$9.75 billion over the next decade. The bill has garnered substantial bipartisan support, with a significant number of co-sponsors in both the House and the Senate, highlighting its importance and the widespread acknowledgment of the issue it seeks to address. MOAA supports this legislation and has prepared a letter that you can send to your representatives. To support the Major Richard Star Act, please login in to the MOAA Legislative Quorum: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43784/> and send your support for this very important legislation today.

JROTC Help Needed

Now that the JROTC season is quickly arriving, we are looking for a few representatives to attend the JROTC Awards ceremonies that are close to your home or, if you are willing, travel to some of the more remote areas of Hillsborough County to present the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate. There are four events that are at the same time. These are especially critical to have coverage. These are the dates, times, and location of the events. Please contact Jeff Camp (Colcamp@icloud.com) if you can assist with these or wish to attend any of the other events.

High School	Address	Date	Time
Sumner High School	10650 County Rd. 672 Riverview, FL 33579	Friday, March 22, 2024	1900
Lennard High School	2342 Shell Point Road Ruskin, FL 33570	Thursday, March 28, 2024	1700
Newsome High School	16550 Fishhawk Blvd Lithia, FL 33547	Wednesday, April 24, 2024	1800
Brandon High School	1101 Victoria St. Brandon FL	Friday, April 26, 2024	0900
Plant City High School	One Raidar Place Plant City, FL 33563	Friday, April 26, 2024	1800
Durant High School	4748 Cougar Path Plant City, FL 33567	Friday, May 3, 2024	1830
East Bay High School	7710 Old Big Bend Road Gibsonton FL 33534	Wednesday, May 8, 2024	1800
Spoto High School	8538 Eagle Palm Drive Riverview FL 33569	Wednesday, May 8, 2024	1800
Bloomington High School	1700 E. Bloomington Ave. Valrico FL 33594	April 22, 2024	1300
Riverview High School	11311 Boyette Road Riverview FL 33569	Thursday, May 2, 2024	1800



Member Spotlight

LtCol Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret)

Chapter Treasurer

I graduated from Princeton with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and an ROTC commission in the USAF. As a result, I spent my entire Air Force career in system acquisition and research and development. My final assignment was as the System Program Director for the development of SACDIN, a digital communication system between Strategic Air Command headquarters and the ICBM silos. After retirement, I continued as a civilian contractor to the government, providing system engineering support. Most notably, my company provided system engineering for the Defense Mapping Agency in their program to upgrade their production plant to digital operation.

My favorite part of the MOAA meetings are the incredibly informative briefings at each of the meetings. I recently remarried, so I am busy setting up my new household. I spend time golfing and dancing and, of course, being SCC MOAA treasurer keeps me busy too.



ENDS SUMMER TRAINING—Ready to board an Air Force T-33 jet trainer for an orientation flight is Air Force ROTC Cadet William W. Patterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Patterson, 261 Smith Avenue, Kingston. A senior at Princeton University, Cadet Patterson is one of 200 Air Force ROTC cadets who recently completed four weeks summer training at Otis Air Force Base, Mass., as part of their Reserve Officers Training at college. Upon graduation from Princeton University, he will be eligible for appointment as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Welcome Spring!!

Our chapter's Military Benefits Forum, originally scheduled for April 24, 2024, is being rescheduled for later in the year due to the availability of our Veteran Service Organization representatives' schedules. Our goal is to create an event with some of our most knowledgeable subject matter experts in their field. We are planning to assemble an informative panel that can answer any and all of your questions and provide updated information on military benefits. We will send out information once a new date has been set.

Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5th. **What is it?** Gold Star Spouses Day is an opportunity for the U.S. Army to honor the surviving husbands and wives of fallen Soldiers. Gold Star Spouses are the resilient legacies of their service member's sacrifice to the nation. The Gold Star is a symbol of loss dating back to World War I. In 1947, Congress approved the design, manufacture, and distribution of the official Gold Star Lapel Button, a symbol worn by next of kin of service members of the armed forces who lost their lives in war and armed hostilities of the United States. In 1973, the [Lapel Button](#) for the Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel was introduced to symbolize active-duty Soldiers who lost their lives in non-combat operations. Family members typically receive these pins from the Army before or after their Soldier's funeral service. **Why is this important to the Army?** Gold Star Spouses will always be a part of the Army Family. The Army recognizes their courage and sacrifice and is committed to supporting them while honoring the legacy of their fallen husbands and wives. Gold Star Spouses are not forgotten.

"Gold Star Spouses represent strength and courage. Soldiers and Families remember and honor them in everything, but we set aside this day to highlight their sacrifice and recognize their unique and enduring contributions to our Army and our nation." - Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl, commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command

MOAA RESOURCES: Did you know that the national MOAA website has a bunch of brochures with invaluable information? Log in to your MOAA account and go to <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/>. There is information for everything from Personal Finance, Military Benefits, Transition, Survivor Issues, Chapters, and Spouse and Family.

Regards,

Jeannie Stratis, Surviving Spouse Liaison



"This is historical fiction and will give the reader insight into one of the pivotal battles of the Vietnam war. Matt's work putting this together was prodigious. I don't know how he did it. As a historical novel, I think it is great."

General Walter Boomer, US Marine Corps (Ret)
 Available on Amazon and Kindle. [https://www.amazon.com/Battle-Quang-Tri-Easter-Offensive-ebook/dp/B0B9HLYGFM/ref=sr_1_1?](https://www.amazon.com/Battle-Quang-Tri-Easter-Offensive-ebook/dp/B0B9HLYGFM/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3CUC5Q8P9SL91&keywords=battle+of+quang+tri+matt+jackson&qid=1671114378&prefix=%2Caps%2C94&sr=8-1)
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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!

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For more information, call 813/634-4675 or log onto our website at milfamilysupport.org

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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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Each Month
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
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Sun City Center Membership Application

(PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY)

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Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth (M/Y) _____ 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, 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 for officers are \$20.00, and \$15.00 for Surviving Spouses. Spouses and significant others are welcome and free.
- Chapter luncheons/meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month except July and August. Guest speakers on multiple topics during each luncheon.

Revised 2/15/2023

(Your Signature)



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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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Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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