



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 40 Number 5

May 2024

President's Message

CDR Bill "Bullet" Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

It is always an honor when one of our own chapter members is acknowledged by MOAA National. Ms. Harriet Jordan, our Chapter Board Secretary, was so honored by the President of MOAA National, Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret).

Harriet was singled out for her work ethic, dedication to our Chapter and comprehension of what had to be done to accomplish our stated goals.



Her duties included providing written notification of all annual and special Board meetings, maintaining records of all proceedings, and preparing the Chapter's correspondence files. All are very time-consuming.

Harriet receives my personal thanks and a hearty Bravo Zulu. (Navy B and Z flags are code for Job Well Done).

B Z



May Program

Dr. Susan A. MacManus

Dr. Susan A. MacManus is a University of South Florida Distinguished University Professor Emerita (Department of Government and International Affairs, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies). From 1998 to 2015, she was a political analyst for WFLA News Channel 8 (Tampa's NBC affiliate). Since 2016, Dr. MacManus has been the political analyst for ABC Action News (Tampa's ABC affiliate). She is a featured columnist on safiereview.com, a widely read Florida-based political website, and has appeared on every major broadcast and cable television and radio network. Dr. MacManus is Florida's most-quoted political scientist. She is not affiliated with any political party.



Dr. 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*, *Young v. Old: Generational Combat in the 21st Century*, and *Targeting Senior Voters*. She and her mother, Elizabeth, also 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*.

Dr. MacManus received her M.A. from the University of Michigan and Ph.D. from Florida State University. She will offer a not-to-be-missed presentation about local Florida politics on May 1st, 2024.

2023/2024 Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret).....(805) 506-3269
president@sccmoaa.org

1st VP

COL Danny Melton, USMC (Ret).....(808) 589-6553
danny.melton@gmail.com

Program Chair

2nd VP

Maj Kirk Faryniasz, USAF (Ret).....(813) 677-2606
membership@sccmoaa.org

Membership Chair

TREASURER

Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret).....(603) 305-1062
bill@wwpat.us

SECRETARY

Ms. Harriet Jordan,(813) 773-7676
secretary@sccmoaa.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret).....(301) 529-4301
eunice@sccmoaa.org

DIRECTOR

LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret).....
colcamp@icloud.com

Legislative Liaison

DIRECTOR

CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret).....(813) 532-0913
newsletter@sccmoaa.org

Newsletter Editor

DIRECTOR

Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret).....(813) 841-0532
garrett4@tampabay.rr.com

DIRECTOR

Jean Bennett Stratis.....(813) 758-7330
jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Liaison

DIRECTOR

LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret).....(813) 260-3105
bwblacks@aol.com

Chaplain

\$19.00 - 1 May LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 28 April 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 Roast Pork with Rosemary Shallot Sauce
- Chicken Piccata
- Bourbon Glazed Salmon

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.

From The President

ATTENTION ALL Chapter Members. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

At the beginning of 2024, our Chapter had a total of 170 members. We had a welcome addition of 26 new members during that year. In January 2024, we compiled a list of 85 members that had not paid their 2024 dues. Your Board members have attempted to contact all the members on that list. With very limited success!

Our By Laws indicate the following:

Section 3. Annual dues, while payable anytime, are due 1 January of each year and may be considered delinquent if unpaid by 1 February unless members have made other arrangements to pay their dues.

Section 4. Officer and surviving spouse members who do not pay their dues by 1 March shall no longer be considered members in good standing.

Section 5. In conjunction with the President, it shall be the responsibility of the Membership Chair to recommend delinquent members for termination to the Board of Directors.

We stand to lose up to 50 members for nonpayment. Please remember, your \$20 dues are used for awards and grants to members of the local community (JROTC scholarships, My Warrior's Place, Southeastern Guide Dogs, and other Grants.)

If you or someone you know hasn't paid, you can send a \$20 check to MOAA, P.O. Box 5693, SCC, FL, 33571.

You can also help by inviting a prospective member to one of our outstanding luncheons.

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>

Legislative Liaison Corner

LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret)

Please take a moment to login to the Legislative Quorum. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has outlined several legislative priorities for 2024. These priorities focus on supporting veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Some of the key legislative priorities include:

- 1. Protection Against 'Claims Sharks':** MOAA is advocating for the GUARD VA Benefits Act, which aims to impose penalties on those charging veterans' unreasonable fees for assistance with disability claims.
- 2. Preserving Earned Burial Benefits:** Through the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act, MOAA is working to ensure veterans and their families continue to receive the burial benefits they have been promised.
- 3. Support for Children of Fallen and Disabled Veterans:** The organization supports the CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act, which would extend healthcare coverage under the VA program to children of eligible veterans until age 26.
- 4. Improvement of Survivors' Benefits:** The Caring for Survivors Act is another focus, aiming to align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation with other federal programs to provide better support to survivors.
- 5. Support for Military Sexual Trauma Survivors:** MOAA backs the SAVES Act to enhance access to care and services for military sexual trauma survivors within the Veterans Health Administration.
- 6. Expansion of Services for Aging and Disabled Veterans:** Legislation like the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act is being supported to provide more care options for aging veterans.
- 7. Rights for Surviving Spouses:** The Love Lives On Act is being promoted to eliminate penalties for surviving military spouses who remarry before the age of fifty-five.

Please take a moment to personalize the letters from the quorum, print them out and mail them to your representatives. This is the best way to tell your elected officials how you feel and how you would like them to represent us.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 27th



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember

Ceremony starts at 10 a.m.

In the Kings Point

Veterans Theater

North Club House

1900 Clubhouse Dr. SCC

A Roll Call of Veterans who died during the past year will be held concurrently with our traditional

LIVING FLAG TRIBUTE

Guest Speaker: Mr. David Dunning

Director Haley VA Hospital

A Musical Interlude will be presented by

The Trinity Baptist Church Singers

Colors will be presented by the

Sheriff's Office Color Guard

Doors will open at 9 a.m. Free Entry

The Public is invited.

Guests are to be seated by 9:50 a.m.

Sponsored by the Combined Veterans

Organizations of Sun City Center

Our April Meeting

Photos from the MOAA April Luncheon. The guest speaker, Attorney Patrick Smith, being thanked by the Chapter President, Bill Kirkpatrick, and the Present presenting MOAA recognition to Chapter Secretary, Harriet Jordan, for her outstanding service.



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>



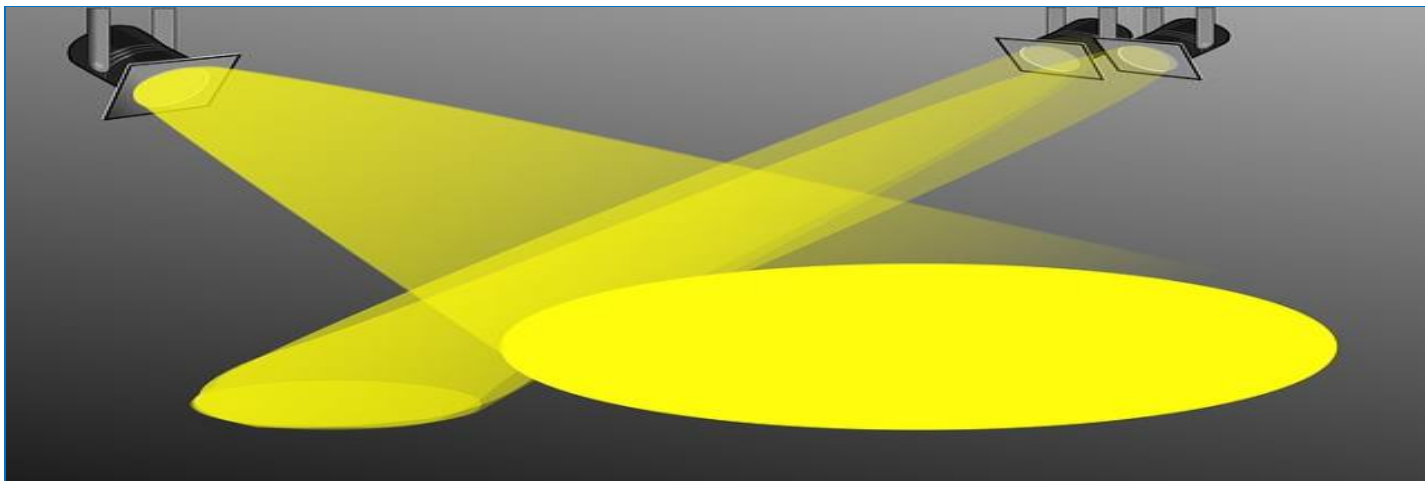
Support Your MOAA Charities

Designated Scholarships

A Designated Scholarship is a scholarship named in memory or honor of a loved one, friend, colleague, organization, or in your own name. The minimum donation for a Designated Scholarship is \$25,000. The student selected to receive the Designated Scholarship receives both a grant and an interest-free loan. As long as the student reapplies for the loan and maintains their academic standing, they will receive the Designated Scholarship for up to five years.

Each donor receives information about his or her Designated Scholar. Each Designated Scholar is required to correspond with and thank their donor at least once a year. A list of all new Designated Scholars and their donors is published annually in the November issue of *Military Officer* magazine.

Donors establishing a Designated Scholarship are eligible for membership in the Designated Scholar Society. They may also be included in our online "Faces of Donors" webpage. For more information, call our Development office at **(800) 234-6622, ext. 169** or email the office at moaasf@moaa.org



Member Spotlight

Harriet Jordan

Chapter Secretary

Harriet Jordan joined the MOAA SCC Board in 2023 as Secretary. Harriet is a surviving spouse of LTC Samuel Closkey, USA. Harriet met Sam at Fort Eustis, Virginia, when she was putting herself through college by working civil service as an Administrative Assistant. Sam had transferred into the Department where Harriet worked, and a friendship ensued. Harriet left civil service upon her college graduation but stayed in touch with Sam as he approached retirement. Sam was retiring to a sailboat to sail around the world. At his pre-retirement party on his sailboat, Harriet and Sam reconnected. Shortly after, Harriet jumped on the sailboat with Sam, and they went sailing for three years.

After their sailing time together, Harriet and Sam bought a house in Boynton Beach Florida, and both began their civilian careers. Harriet had many roles but eventually moved into Human Resources, eventually taking a position in Tampa. When Sam passed away, Harriet was the head of Human Resources for Florida and Louisiana (over 2000 employees) for a major health insurance company. Realizing that life is too short, Harriet retired from her role in 2016.

Harriet spends her time volunteering at Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. Sam had done fundraising for SEG D for many years because of their commitment to Veterans. It has become a passion for Harriet, and she now speaks at many events with her Ambassador Dog Sloopy.

Becoming a part of MOAA was a choice that Harriet made because of Sam's military career. Since she wasn't a part of his life during his military service, she hoped to gain better perspectives of the military community.

Harriet enjoys her life in Ruskin with her three black labs – Jack, Mason, and Sloopy. She enjoys boating and being outdoors. You will most likely find her on the Southeastern Guide Dog campus in Parrish or on the Tampa Bay waters in her new boat.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis



Second Annual Military Benefits Forum

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 2-4pm
SCC Community Hall
1910 South Pebble Beach Boulevard
Sun City Center, FL

SAVE THE DATE for this informative forum for our ***military veterans, family members, surviving spouses, and caregivers, of all branches, grades and rank.***



To register for this free event, click here, scan the QR code or email moasccsurvivors@gmail.com and provide first and last name.

Memorial Day: A Time to Remember and Reflect

As the warm breeze of late spring envelops the United States, families gather, flags flutter, and a solemn reverence fills the air. **Memorial Day**, observed on the last Monday of May, holds a special place in the hearts of Americans. Let us delve into the significance of this cherished holiday.

Origins and Evolution

Originally known as **Decoration Day**, Memorial Day emerged in the aftermath of the **Civil War**. The conflict, which concluded in the spring of 1865, exacted a heavy toll—more lives lost than any other war in U.S. history. The nation grappled with grief, and the need arose to honor those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

In towns and cities across the land, heartfelt tributes sprouted spontaneously. Communities adorned the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers, recited prayers, and paid homage. The exact birthplace of this tradition remains shrouded in mystery, with various locales claiming its inception. However, in 1966, the federal government officially designated **Waterloo, New York**, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo's annual community-wide event, where businesses closed, and residents adorned graves with flowers and flags, stood as a testament to the enduring spirit of remembrance.

Decoration Day: A Call to Honor

On **May 5, 1868**, **General John A. Logan**, a leader among Northern Civil War veterans, issued a proclamation. He designated the **30th of May** as a day to strew flowers upon the graves of comrades who had fallen in defense of their country. Unlike the anniversary of any specific battle, this date was chosen to honor all fallen soldiers. At **Arlington National Cemetery**, General James Garfield delivered a poignant speech, and 5,000 participants adorned the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers interred there.

Northern states embraced this commemorative tradition, and by **1890**, each had declared **Decoration Day** an official state holiday. The solemn act of decorating graves became a sacred rite—a way to express gratitude for the freedom preserved by those who gave their lives.

A Day of Remembrance

Today, Memorial Day transcends mere tradition. It is a **national holiday** that unites Americans in honoring the brave men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Here's why it matters:

1.Reflection: Memorial Day prompts us to pause and reflect. We contemplate the cost of freedom—the sacrifices made by countless individuals who answered the call of duty.

2.Unity: Families, communities, and the nation come together. We stand alongside those who lost loved ones, sharing their grief and honoring their resilience.

3.Tradition: Visiting cemeteries, placing flags on graves, and participating in parades—these rituals connect us to our past and reinforce our commitment to the future.

Summer's Prelude: Unofficially, Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer. As we fire up the grills and enjoy the outdoors, let us not forget the deeper purpose behind this holiday.

A Moment of Remembrance

At **3:00 p.m. local time** on Memorial Day, a national moment of remembrance envelops the nation. It's a collective pause—a chance to honor those who gave everything for our freedom.

So, as the sun sets on this Memorial Day, let us remember. Let us honor. Let us cherish the legacy of those who rest beneath the hallowed ground, their sacrifice etched into the fabric of our nation.

JROTC Recognition LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret)

JROTC Season Begins

Over the past month, the Sun City Center MOAA chapter has been very active in the local Hillsborough County High School JROTC programs. The MOAA medal is presented to a candidate who must be in the next-to-last year of an ROTC or JROTC program; be in good academic standing; be of high moral character; demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country; and demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.

The first ceremony of the season was at Sumner High School. The Sumner cadet corps hosted the event in respect of LTC (r) Aycock, who has been hospitalized with a serious illness for over a month. LTC(r)Jeff Camp, our representative, was welcomed by the Senior JROTC instructor, CW4 (r) Jeff Blake in LTC (r) Aycock's absence. Thanks to CW4(r) Blake's leadership, the Sumner program has ninety-four cadets currently enrolled. From this impressive group, ten of the cadets have opted to enlist on to Active Duty. Due to his outstanding loyalty to his school and program the MOAA certificate, medal and \$100 check were awarded to Cadet Michael Hergenreder. LTC (r) Aycock can be extremely proud of the professionalism demonstrated by these young leaders.

The second event was conducted by LTC (r) Dave Dietz at Lennard High School. This program has 125 cadets in their ranks. The MOAA certificate, medal and \$100 check were presented to Cadet Jiaralee Gama for her exceptional potential for military leadership. This ceremony was conducted in the Lennard High School auditorium in front of a full house. It was obvious from the conduct of the corps of cadets that they take pride in being a part of the Lennard High School JROTC program.

Great job to all of cadets, especially the graduates. You all have very bright futures ahead!





"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)
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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
newsletter@sccmoaa.org

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- **Career Development Grants**- Grants for Florida high school seniors and recently graduated students
- **JROTC Awards & Certificates Program**- Champion Hillsborough County JROTC students & Florida public schools in citizenship
- **Service Dogs**- Partnership to help subsidize guide dogs and service dogs for veterans
- **Honor Flight Guardianship**- Fund 4 guardians annually for flights to Washington, D.C.

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

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Member Spotlight

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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>



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

PRESERVE YOUR MILITARY HISTORY .



A PROGRAM OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

This program captures through a video interview, firsthand account of Veterans who served in any branch of the US military in any capacity, from World War I through the present, and are no longer serving. Civilians who served in support of a US war effort in a professional capacity are also welcome to participate.

**3rd Wednesday of
Each Month
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
By Appointment Only**

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

**To schedule your recorded interview at
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SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER

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Website: sccmoaa.org

Sun City Center Membership Application

(PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY)

Date _____

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? _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.



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.

(Your Signature)



Sun City Center Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

Florida House District 70

Mike Beltran

Offices and Addresses:

Local - 3618 Erindale Drive
Valrico, FL 33596-6311

State - 303 House Office Bldg.
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee 32399-1300

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

Legislative Assistant - James Jacobs

Florida Senate District 20

Jim Boyd

Offices and Addresses:

Local - 717 Manatee Ave.
Suite 100
Bradenton 34205

State - 312 Senate Bldg.
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee 32399-1100

Tel. Local – (813) 779-7059
State – (850) 487-5020

Legislative Assistant:

Amanda Romant
romant.amanda@flsenate.gov

Florida Congressional District 16

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Offices and Addresses:

Local - 510 Vonderburg Drive
Suite 303
Brandon, FL 33511

DC - 2110 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
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Hillsborough County Field Representative/Constituent
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U.S. Senators

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Offices and Addresses:

Local - 501 E. Polk Street
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DC - 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
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Tel. Local – 813-947-6288
DC – 202-224-2573
Fax – 202-224-3041

Legislative assistant:

Taylor Sanchez

Rick Scott

Offices and Addresses:

Local -801 N. Florida Ave
Suite 421
Tampa, FL 33602

DC - 716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Tel. Local – 813-225-7040
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Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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



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