



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 9

September 2024

President's Message

CDR Bill "Bullet" Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

Please note: Our next luncheon will be September 4th starting at 11:00 AM. We will start collecting 2025 Dues (Officers \$20, Surviving Spouses \$15).

Welcome back "Snow Birds!" It feels good to have you all back again. For those of you who stayed put for the summer, we've survived another season of hot, humid, and rainy weather in our Hillsborough County homes. For many, you'd have to join an expensive health club to enjoy a sauna like this.

I'd like to highlight MOAA National in this message. Our SCC chapter has a key affiliation with MOAA National and receives many benefits from the organization. In addition, many of our members have joined the national organization, quite a few as Life Members. Please try the following link to the MOAA website. <https://www.moaa.org/> The site has topics on MOAA News, Advocacy, Events, and Member Benefits. You do not need to be a national member to look at this helpful information.

So why should you consider joining MOAA National?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause but also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA's experts in

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September Program

Col Dan Melton, USMC (Ret)

September's speaker will be MOAA SCC Chapter First



Melton last day of active duty—Oorah!

Vice President, Col Dan Melton USMC (ret). During his 41-year career in the Corps and federal civilian service, he supported U.S. personnel accounting efforts in the Indo-Pacific. As a DoD civilian, he served as the Indo-Pacific Senior International Engagement Officer at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). He was

responsible for engagement and strategy for personnel accounting activities in Japan, the Republic of Korea, North Korea, Indonesia, China, and Oceania. He coordinated joint U.S.-Japanese operations in Japan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Saipan, and Kiribati, resulting in the recovery and identification of remains of U.S. military personnel. He will provide a presentation on the history, mission, and current operations of DPAA.



PM Abe visit to DPAA 2016

2023/2024 Chapter Officers

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Chaplain

\$19.00 - 4 September LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 1 Sept 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:

- Beef Bourguignon
- Onion Crusted Salmon
- Italian Herb Roasted Chicken

Starch: Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



CHAPTER 2025 ANNUAL DUES

- Officers: \$20.00
- Surviving Spouses: \$15.00
- Spouses: Free

HOW TO PAY YOUR DUES

1. Cash or check or Credit Card at our Luncheon
2. Mail your check to:
Sun City Center MOAA Chapter
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693
3. Online
 - Go to moaa.org
 - Login if you have an ID and password. If not click on "Join" and create your account.
 - After you login click on "Chapters" Then Click on "Pay Dues Online" and follow the instructions

Continued from Front Page

Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood.

The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

MOAA advocates for active duty, retirees, and surviving spouses. The association plays an active role in military personnel matters, especially proposed legislation.

Some of MOAA's advocacy priorities for retirees in the 118th Congress include:

- Ensuring pay at or above the Employment Cost Index, allowances, and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.
- Concurrent Receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Reversing the degradation of the pharmacy benefit, specifically, ensure access and achieve limits to copay increases.
- Monitoring recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families and seek statutory or policy changes as required.
- Repealing the recoupment of last month's paycheck after the retiree's passing.
- Protecting TRICARE For Life. TFL has come under budgetary attack in multiple legislative cycles. MOAA and other advocacy groups are working to preserve the benefits for Medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees and their families.

Again, please try out the MOAA site:

<https://www.moaa.org/>

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our luncheon next month!!!

Bill

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>



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

<https://sccmoaa.org>



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Member Spotlight

CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret)

Chapter Newsletter Editor

Cliff serves as a Director and as the Chapter's Newsletter Editor. In 1967, as a University of Tampa Sophomore, he enrolled in the Navy's Aviation Reserve Officer Candidate (AVROC) program. He was commissioned as an Ensign in service dress whites while the rest of his graduating class wore caps and gowns. Reporting to Pensacola in 1969, he encountered an instructor pilot shortage that sent him, with half of the student pilot program, home. (He was only 8 weeks away from wings! Grrrr . . .) Once home Cliff was affiliated with a drilling reserve unit and continued as a drilling reservist until he retired in 1996. With a brief detour as CO of a Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit, most of his Reserve career was in the Naval Control of Shipping Organization. He retired as CO of NCSO 301 in Portland, ME which was responsible for all NCSO activity from Portsmouth, NH to Grønødal, Greenland. In addition to such exciting places as Bayonne, NJ (yuck), he was able to "see the world" as a reservist in Machrihanish, Scotland, Argentina, Newfoundland, the US Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, and several years participating in an annual wargaming exercise in Current Operations with the JCS at the Pentagon. As a civilian, Cliff had a career in telecommunications sales as a national account manager, until he made the jump to becoming a Licensed Massage Therapist. In his 30 years in the massage industry, he owned an integrated health clinic in NH, was President of the NH chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association, served as the Editor of a national trade publication, Chaired the National Certification Board, was a VP of the Massage Therapy Foundation, and Chaired the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation.

Cliff lives in Sun City Center with Betsy, his wife of 55 years. He'll tell you all about his kids and brilliant grandkids if you give him a chance. You will frequently find him attempting to approach mediocrity on the golf course.





MOAA[®]
Military Officers Association of America

Sun City Center Chapter
Surviving Spouse Committee

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.

Legislative Liaison Corner

LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret)

Advocacy in Action: Summer Initiatives

In this pivotal year for our nation's service members and veterans, MOAA remains at the forefront of the fight for key legislative changes. Our spring campaign event, Advocacy in Action, saw hundreds of supporters from across the nation gathering on Capitol Hill to spotlight critical issues affecting the uniformed services and veteran communities.

MOAA is grateful to you and others who have engaged in our advocacy efforts through MOAA's Legislative Action Center. To sustain this momentum, we are urging you and our more than 360,000 members to engage with elected officials during the congressional summer recess. Legislators will be in their home states for the next month, providing a unique opportunity for personal outreach.

Key MOAA advocacy priorities:

- Junior Enlisted Pay Raise:** Competitive pay remains critical to the health of the all-volunteer force, and both the House and the Senate seek to address this issue in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House NDAA calls for servicemembers E-1 to E-4 to receive a 15% pay raise beyond the 4.5% earmarked for all in uniform. While the Senate version calls for an additional 1% increase for servicemembers E-1 to E-3 (beyond the 4.5% raise).
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Restoration:** Access to quality housing and promoting financial wellness are important to sustaining the all-volunteer force. Restoring BAH addresses both issues. The House version of the NDAA would restore BAH to 100% for FY 2025 – a move toward MOAA's goal of full repeal of the BAH reduction, but not a permanent fix. Unfortunately, the Senate version does not address the issue.
- Major Richard Star Act:** Tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, over two-thirds of Congress has supported the Star Act, which would end that unjust financial offset. Despite this vast support, neither version of the NDAA includes the bill. However, it is critical lawmakers continue to hear about this important issue, especially as we approach the start of the 119th Congress.

If you haven't taken time this summer to reach out to your local representatives to express your views on these major initiatives, please log in to the MOAA legislative quorum, <https://moaa.quorum.us> to send an email today!



Take Action Now

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Your participation amplifies our collective voice in shaping policies that support our nation's servicemembers past and present, and their families. Thank you for your continued dedication to MOAA's mission.

Best Regards,

Maj. Gen. April Vogel, USAF (Ret)
Vice President, Government Relations
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
[201 N Washington Street](#)
[Alexandria, VA 22314](#)
800.234.6622
www.moaa.org

NEVER STOP SERVING.®

Take Action Now

Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Welcome back! It seems like the summer flew by, but it also seems like ages since I've seen my MOAA friends!

We have our Second Annual Military Benefits Forum coming up on Wednesday, October 30th. To register for this free event, see the flyer in this newsletter for more information. We are excited to announce that one of our guest speakers will be from the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs.

I have heard many stories about the scammers out there lurking around every virtual corner trying to take advantage of someone. This is an article from the latest MOAA National newsletter that provides some great tips to help us all stay cyber-safe. A personal recommendation of mine is to sign up for a service like Lifelock that tracks accounts, SSNs, credit cards, and many others, to help keep your personal information and accounts safe. The cost was worth my peace of mind.

Jeannie Stratis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Survivor Scams: 4 Ways to Keep Your Benefits Safe

Nothing is off-limits to scam artists – including taking advantage of military survivors in their most vulnerable moments.

As these beneficiaries begin the process of reviewing insurance, applying for survivor programs, and even preparing funeral ceremonies, they become tempting fraud targets. And while many of the [scam-prevention tactics offered by MOAA](#) apply in these circumstances, there are some specific practices survivors should keep in mind, [offered by the VA](#) and other governmental agencies.

- 1. Paperwork Protection - In the immediate aftermath of a veteran's death, survivors face a series of forms they may find overwhelming. Resist the urge to take shortcuts – signing before a form is filled out, for example, or failing to read over new materials. Keep a copy of every form for your personal records, with special care paid to discharge papers and VA claims.*
- 2. Timely Reporting - Reporting a veteran's death to the VA not only avoids benefit overpayments, it can help stop identity theft. The VA also recommends reporting the death to [one of the three](#)*

[credit bureaus](#) – Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion – which will trigger an update the veteran's credit report and may stop similar scammers.

- 3. Watch the Details - Scam artists have multiple venues to collect personally identifiable information (PII), which requires survivors to be vigilant on several fronts:*
 - If you haven't created a VA account that's protected by a personal identification number (PIN), [consider doing so](#).*
 - Scammers [may use obituaries](#) to collect personal data for use in identity theft. This could involve creating fake accounts in the deceased's name or contacting relatives mentioned in the obituary while posing as tax officials or insurance agents. The VA recommends leaving out some details in the obituary – birthdate and mother's maiden name, for example – that are of particular value to fraudsters.*
 - Do not give out PII via text, and only use trusted web links. If you're unsure whether an email is legitimate, reach out to the sender via another contact method (phone call, website contact form).*
- 4. Take Pause - The loss of a loved one can be overwhelming in even the best of circumstances – a fact fraudsters hope to use to their advantage. Any solicitation requiring urgent action, especially one involving benefits, may be a scam.*

Why take the time? Aside from risking your information, a scammer may seek to enroll you in a VA benefit plan you're not eligible to use. If you receive improper benefits from such an arrangement, even unknowingly, you may face penalties in addition to recoupment.

Want more ways to combat scams of all sorts? MOAA partners with the [Cybercrime Support Network's Military and Veteran Program](#), which aims to protect servicemembers, veterans, and military families from falling victim to fraud. Find more information [on their blog](#).

(Article reprinted from MOAA National's Newsletter, written by Kevin Lilley).



The U.S. Air Force was officially founded on 18 September 1947, and in the decades since it has established itself as an air force second-to-none.

Yet the Air Force's history and heritage goes back the turn of the twentieth century.

Between 1909 -- when the US military purchased its first aircraft -- and 1947, the U.S. Air Force did not exist as a separate and independent military service organization. It went through a series of designations: Aeronautical Section, Signal Corps (1909); Aviation Section, Signal Corps (1914); United States Army Air Service (1918); United States Army Air Corps (1926), and United States Army Air Forces (1941).

WWII illustrated the value of airpower, and the need to change the basic organization of the US

Military Forces. The result was the creation of a single Department of Defense with a strong Joint Chiefs of Staff with Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs. In 1947 President Truman signed the National Security Act which established this new defense organization, and along with it the creation of the US Air Force as an independent service, equal to the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy.

The official Air Force birthday is Sept. 18, 1947.





"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?crid=3CUC5Q8P9SL91&keywords=battle+of+quang+tri+matt+jackson&qid=1671114378&prefix=%2Caps%2C94&sr=8-1



We support military men, women, and families with funds from individuals and organizations who care.

The Many Ways MFS & You Help Military Families

- **Emergency Financial Assistance**- In crucial times of need
- **Scholarships and Leadership Programs**- Supporting Florida high school & JROTC students
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- **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
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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
Sun Towers Retirement Community
call 813-634-3347.**



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Sun City Center Chapter Member Application

PO Box 5693, SCC, FL 33571-5693

(Please Print Carefully)

Applicant Information

Name _____

Address _____

Cell _____ Alt Phone _____

Rank _____ Branch _____

Email _____

Spouse Information

Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Alt Phone _____

Email _____

Are You a National MOAA Member? If yes supply MOAA Number _____

Do You Wish a Chapter Name Tag at \$10? Names? _____

Are You a Member of Another MOAA Chapter? Which One? _____

To complete enrollment: fill out application and mail to SCC MOAA Chapter, PO Box 5693, Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693

More information? Contact kfaryniasz@hotmail.com Phone: (813)255-5178

Other Information:

Chapter annual dues are \$20 and \$15 for Surviving spouses. Spouses and significant others are welcome and free.

Chapter luncheons/meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month except July and August. Guest speakers are part of the program each month.



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

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Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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

